

Hate-crimes measure pending in assembly

A bill defining hate-crimes as crimes of malice aforethought is pending in the Legislature.

The bill would allow evidence that an offender acted out of such malice to be an aggravating factor in sentencing.

The proposal has been authored for the second year in a row by Rep. William Crawford, D-Indianapolis. It has the support of the Jewish Community Relations Council and the Indiana Civil Liberties Union, among other groups.

Crawford is black, but one of the votes he gained to bring

the bill out of committee was from Rep. Paul Hric, D-Hammond, who seldom votes for bills that could be construed as protective of racial, ethnic or other minorities.

Hric said he voted for the bill because a young black man suspected of several shotgun murders in north-west Indiana has said he acted out of malice toward whites.

"I want to see this bill used against that guy," Hric said.

(Presumably, however, the proposed law could not affect that suspect. It is unconstitutional to apply criminal laws retroactively.)

Steven Roberts to speak here

Journalist Steven Roberts is the featured speaker Sunday, March 10 for the second lecture of the Block Forum series at Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation.

Roberts began covering the capital 25 years ago. He writes regularly for U.S. News and

World Report, was White House correspondent of The New York Times for the last two years of the Reagan administration and is a regular panelist on television on "Washington Week in Review."

Rabbi, relations council clash in stands on education plan

A plan submitted to the Indiana General Assembly to give parents more say in choosing their children's schools attracted testimony from the Jewish community on both sides of the question.

The bill was backed by an organization called COMMIT, a group of Indiana business leaders pushing for school reform. Its sponsors include Sen. Morris H. Mills, R-Indianapolis, who last week effectively killed the bill by telling the Senate Finance Committee it was not in shape to be sent forward to the full Senate. Mills has long headed the budget subcommittee of the Finance Committee.

Rabbi Reuven Shechter of Congregation B'nai Torah had testified in favor of the legislation, which included a plan to distribute vouchers to students at all public and private schools to attend the school of their parents' choice.

The business leaders envisioned the schools operating like businesses, so that those which attracted the most students would prosper and those which attracted few would ultimately go out of business.

The Jewish Community Relations Council sided against the bill. The JCRC consistently has opposed legislation that would involve government in religious matters or vice-versa. The JCRC and other opponents of the legislation argued that making government money available for sectarian schools would be unconstitutional.

Shechter said the JCRC did not represent all views within the community.

COMMIT announced its plans in November, but did not complete work on the bill until mid-February.

Although the bill is apparently dead, Mills said some of

its concepts may remain alive and might even become law as part of other bills pending that deal with site-based schools and innovative education.

A co-sponsor of the bill, Sen. Louis Mahern Jr., D-Indianapolis, has complained that the schools now are trying to please the state as their customer, whereas the customer to be pleased ought to be the parents of school children.

For any group, even of influential business leaders, to succeed with a far-reaching restructuring of education in a single legislative session would be contrary to the historical pattern of legislation.

Mills said the COMMIT leaders were trying to do just that. While his action apparently killed the bill, COMMIT leaders are expected to keep fighting for the concepts in it until the Legislature goes home for the year.

PASSOVER



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Carole Stein may see her work pay off for children

Years of work as director of the Indiana Alliance for Better Child Care may finally be paying off for the children, alliance Carole Stein says.

"This is the year we're going to do something for kids," she said, as quoted in Sunday's Indianapolis Star.

Her optimism is based on Indiana's expectation of receiving at least \$45 million in federal block grant funds in the next several years for child care and \$30 million beyond that if the state puts up matching funds.

The alliance has submitted a spending plan that calls for more affordable licensed day care for at least 4,000 of the estimated 6,000 or more Indiana children waiting for spots in federally subsidized day-care centers. Such centers al-

low parents to pay according to their income.

The plan proposed by Stein's group also recommends improved pre-school learning programs for 4-year-olds and a statewide referral system to help working parents find day care that meets their needs.

Stein's proposal suggests spending about \$4 million of the first \$13.9 million on pre-school learning and about \$7 million to reduce the long lists of children waiting for spots in day care, subsidized day care or latchkey programs.

A voucher system would help parents pay for the care, she proposed. Her alliance also called for more training for day care owners and state inspectors and the establish-

TV documentarist asking Jews to help him tell their story

By ED STATTMANN

Television producer Rick Maultra is busy trying to pack the history of Indiana's Jews into a 30-minute documentary, and asking Jews in central Indiana and elsewhere to help him make the product worthy of that history.

Maultra, 33, is senior producer at Cable Channel 16, the city government channel.

His Hoosier History series has won "probably a dozen national and regional awards," Maultra said. He also won a local CASPER Award for the Saturday Evening Post TV Division with a program on "Understanding AIDS."

He said he has a good chance for a national award for his program on the history of Indiana's African-Americans.

The help he needs is the loan of old family pictures from before the turn of the century up until about 1933. The pictures should have been taken in Indiana or Indianapolis, or in the "old country" before a family came to America.

"The loaned pictures will be returned in the condition they were lent," Maultra said.

"I'll take good care of the material and I will get the materials back to them promptly. And there will be no charge for the completed program for them." He said he will furnish the copy for anyone who participates and provides the blank videotape for their own copy. Besides, he said, lending the pictures "will assure that particular family that they will be repre-

"My hope is that your readers in Central Indiana and around the state will contact me and lend me old photographs and old home movies to be used in the production," Maultra said.

Whoever wishes to participate in this project or knows of available material for it may call Maultra at TV 16 at 236-4591 or after 7 p.m. at 823-9360.

sented in the only TV documentary to be produced on Indiana's Jewish Community."

Besides still photographs, he is seeking to borrow old home movies before 1950 to be used in the show. They can be on 8 mm or 16 mm film and may depict anything from formal family portraits to weddings to family businesses to family outings or children's pictures.

He already has borrowed many home movies from Charlie Sacks, Maultra said. Among others he also has talked with or interviewed are Joseph Levine of Fort Wayne, the executive secretary of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society; funeral director Max Nelson, to Auschwitz survivor Benci Mendelsohn; kosher butcher Ruben Reisberg, Libby Fogel, Sylvia Cohen, Jewish journalist Gabriel M. Cohen, Sally Kohlman and Danny Shapiro. He said he still is eager for "leads" to learn more Indiana Jewish history and find more visual materials.

Maultra said he spends three to four months inter-

viewing for a program and may end up using less than a minute on the air of an interview that takes an hour or so, but he still incorporates the information into the script.

He also is relying on Judith Edelman's history of Indianapolis Jewry back to 1849 and other sources, he said.


"I have little or no pictures on businesses. I want to spend a lot of time on businesses — that's a big part of Jewish history, the entrepreneurship of the Jewish people," he said.

Maultra sees the Indiana history as a microcosm of the national history of the Jews in America, he said.

He would like pictures related to Jewish banking, Goodman Jewelers, the Efroymsons, the Wolfs and other Indiana Jewish businesspeople of large or small enterprises, he said.

One disappointment has been that several people who once had old home movies have converted them into VHS videotape that is no use to him because he uses 3/4-inch tape, Maultra said.

"They've transferred the



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Women's seder plans announced

All local Jewish women are invited to the third annual Women's Seder of the National Council of Jewish Women, Indianapolis Section, at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 14, at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck.

The Women's Seder is a multi-generational celebration of the Exodus from a woman's perspective. Participants are encouraged to join in the experience with their mothers, sisters, daughters,

grandmothers and other women in their extended families. Special invitations have been sent to college students and women residing at the Jacobs Home. An invitation written in Russian has been sent to the community's new Americans.

The kosher Seder meal will be served family style.

The cost is \$18, but \$16 for seniors and students, payable by Friday, March 8 to NCJW,

P.O. Box 55542, Indianapolis, IN 46205. The admission price for new Americans "has been graciously underwritten by committed individuals" in the community, an NCJW statement said.

The Haggadah to be used is one that was developed two years ago by Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck and Cantor Janice Roger of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation. Rabbi Sue Shifron of Indiana University, Bloomington, also will participate.

The Pesach Seder has been organized by a committee chaired by Nonie Vonnegut-Gabovitch. Program Committee members include Sally Cook, Suzanne Cooper, Caron Goldstein, Laurel Grass, Jackie Laikin, Blayne Levin, Janet Nykasa, Miriam Resnick, Kathy Silvey, Suzanne Voightmann, Marie Warshauer and Susan Weinberg.

Meetings highlight U.S. foreign policy

Two meetings scheduled by the League of Women Voters of Indianapolis may be of special interest to our community.

The League's international relations study group has scheduled a meeting Monday March 18 on "Rethinking Foreign Aid: What kind? How much? For Whom?" Its Monday, May 20 meeting will be

on the media's role in shaping foreign policy.

The meetings will be at 444 Blue Ridge Road at 9:30 a.m. and will use the Great Decisions briefing book of the Foreign Policy Association for background. Books will be available for \$10. For more information, call Paul Kuhn, 849-0867.

Stein

ment of a division within the state Department of Human Services to coordinate child care programs.

The state expects to get \$13.9 million in

federal money for 1992, at least as much for 1993 and \$17.5 million for 1994. An-

other \$6 million yearly for the next five years would be available through matching grants.

Stein has long lobbied the Legislature and the executive branch of state government to do more for children. The alliance she heads is a non-partisan advocacy and education group.

Documentarist

films to VHS and burned the films or thrown them away," he said. Maultra said people don't realize that films provide better quality images than videotape. To preserve such films, he said, he and a number of other people have organized a group called "Friends of the Archives" and are hoping to receive a philan-

thropic grant to establish an archives for old films from television stations and personal collections.

TV has gone through many formats, he said, "but the most perfect form of reproducing images in the television industry was when they did film. You can always make a print

Continued on page 8

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When Scuds were falling

By GISELA WEISZ
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LETTER FROM ISRAEL:
Rena is a mother and grandmother, living in Petach



Tikva, Israel. She writes: "Last night we survived the 11th Scud attack that the Iraqis aimed at us, perhaps, because

they were bored. Fortunately there were no big losses; it seems they are not able to aim too well. The coalition do not let them get away with much and for that we are grateful to George Bush and Cheney.

"We are on the 17th day of the war and as the days go by and as the coalition is seemingly successful, we also sleep a little easier. Until now I did not sleep well, because I did not want to miss the announcement that a rocket is coming. I wanted to have enough time to put on the mask and to seal the door, because usually the Scud

blasts come within seconds. . . The days pass by somehow, because we are working, but evenings we sit in the house from 5 o'clock on. Every night we light candles and pray that the American soldiers should not get hurt, they fight for a new order in the world and we respect and understand this.

Thank you for inquiring about us, we know you care. Until now, thanks to God, we are well, whatever will happen later, no one can know. In any case, we hope for the best, especially if we are to survive this war. Kisses, Rena and her family."

MOVIE: "The Revolt of Job," a Hungarian-made movie, deals with a Jewish theme. It will be presented by the Indiana Film Society on March 9 and 10 at the Irving Theater. Shows start at 4:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. A van will leave from the Jewish Community Center on Saturday, March 9 at 3:30 p.m.

A free Klezmer concert is offered on March 23 in Bloomington. A van will leave from the Jewish Community Center. Transportation cost \$10. Call the center for reservations. 251-9467.

FIRST YOU TALK: A large discussion about the Gulf War, among 18 Jewish and Moslem teenagers on Feb. 6, was recorded in the Indianapolis News.

David Glassman, a Park Tudor student whose large colored photo was on the first page of the "Extra" section, said: "I'm impressed with the way Bush handled this. I think he did it in the right manner." Glassman, a member of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, was supposed to attend a Model United Nations conference at The Hague, in the Netherlands. His trip was canceled because of the war.

"I think the steps the president took were in a very peaceful order, an order that meant we did not wish to go to war, the world did not wish to go to war. I'm glad we waited until the UN deadline was past."

Photos and varying points of view about the war followed from a number of Muslim students and Debbie Arkush, 17, Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, a North

Central student;

Meredith Berns, 16, from North Central High School, a Beth-El Zedeck member; Matt Drexler, a Carmel senior from IHC; Mark Hoffman, 17, a Brebeuf junior and president of Beth-El Youth group; David Plotinsky 15, B'nai Torah, North Central High School; Eric Rubenstein, 16, Carmel High School junior, member of Beth-El Zedeck, and Hugh Rosen, 17, B'nai Torah member and North Central student.

LOOK AT IT!: Noted artist Edit Hamburger has an exhibit of her oil paintings at the Jewish Community Center, March 3-April 7.

Teen columnist position available

The Post and Opinion has an opening for a Teen Columnist to report on activities in the teen community. The position draws a monthly salary and provides an introduction to writing and journalism for someone in high school who participates in teen affairs.

Just as in the Jewish community as a whole, there are a number of teen organizations in the city, and in addition a

Realtor gains sales group award

Fran Lazerov of F.C. Tucker Co. has been awarded the Certified Residential Spe-

WE HAVE ONE AGAIN!: The women of ORT selected an outstanding woman in our community to be Sarah's Daughter in 1991! Like her predecessors — among them Janie Maurer and Libby Fogel — Estelle Nelson is known for her tireless work for our own Jewish community and her deeds for the family of Jews around the world.

Among her accomplishments is chairing the Regional Leadership Conference for United Jewish Appeal. The region encompasses 18 states and its purpose is to prepare material and train for leadership in this area.

Estelle will be honored on Sept. 29. Contact ORT for invitations to this gala event!

number of teens participate not only in Jewish community affairs, but in activities and projects and events in the general community. Reporting on teen life is part of the obligation of any Jewish paper, and The Post and Opinion plans to fill that current vacuum.

Those interested should call Gabriel Cohen, at 927-7800 for an appointment.

State of Israel Bonds Launches Emergency \$500 Million Campaign

Jews from the Soviet Union, Ethiopia and Argentina continue to pour into Israel as the country stands resolute in the face of missile attack. Israel Bond dollars are helping Israel provide jobs and housing for tens of thousands of newcomers.

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NORM WEISMAN

Flash! A snicker. I saw a movie that was so sick, they didn't have ushers — they had nurses... Flash! The popular Bob Goldberg is now



affiliated with Tom O'Brien Chrysler and Plymouth dealers. Best wishes, Bob, and you talk a good deal.

Flash! Congrats and welcome to the "retired" ranks — Martha Glasz. Martha was employed by the Federal Government for many years. You and Kurt enjoy retirement.

Flash! For all you matzah bakers, the "matzah bakery" will be held on Sunday, March 17 and 24, 1-4 p.m. at the JCC, co-sponsored by Lubavitch of Indiana.

Flash! Daffynitions. (Stubborn) — He won't eat anything that agrees with him. (Chicken Coquette) — is a flirtatious hen. (Nursery) a bawl room. (Paint) — Women paint what they used to be. (Free Afternoon) — It takes an exclusive country club to show you how expensive a free afternoon can be. (Judgment) — It was so complex, nobody knew what the judge meant. (News) — When a bull throws a congressman.

Flash! Back Home In Indiana is Bonnie Goodman, after visiting her daughter BethAnn in the Cayman Islands and then on to Florida to stay with her sister and brother-in-law and do several side trips... Debbie/Marvin Klapper back from California, where they enjoyed visiting Debbie's daughter and her son and wife... After a long weekend, Ambassador returned Norman/Rita Cohen and Caroline/James Leeds from Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, where they enjoyed the lovely resort life.

Flash! Funny laws. In

Michigan, there was a legal ruling that a magician who conjured up drinks out of a hat, had to take out a liquor license... Flash! Norm's philosophy of the week. This is the only country I know of where it takes more brains to fill out an income tax form than it did to make the income.

Flash! Chuckles. They told me to buy stocks for my old age, and it worked wonderfully. Within one week, I became an old man. And... People ought to be careful at election time. Now and then, an innocent man is sent to congress... And... So what if George Washington never told a lie? He never played golf or had to file on income tax form... And... There's one great advantage to being a vegetarian. You never have a bone to pick with anyone... And... One thing sure, if we had World War III, we wouldn't have to worry about any veterans' benefits — (figure it out)... And... "inflation song." "I Met A Million Dollar Baby In A Five And Ten Cent Store!"

Flash! The Indianapolis Star had a terrific long write-up about our own Joe Careskey. Joe served in World War II, in the Persian Gulf area, hauling trucks and materials to the Soviets, through this area on to the Caspian Sea. He graduated from Officer's Candidate School. An interesting article, with memories of his army life, trials and perils, in Iraq, Iran and neighboring places. (Personal to Joe — Among my souvenirs, I have a photograph of you, taken in my gym class when I was athletic director at Kirshbaum Center, almost 50 years ago. I'll get the picture to you. You still are a swell guy.)

Flash! After being closed the month of February for remodeling Broadmoor Country Club is now open... Flash! I hear that Saddam has a new telephone number and it's "911." Tee-hee.

Flash! B'nai B'rith Mens #58, is having their annual winter picnic, called "Outside" but will be held "Inside" — Saturday, March 16, 6:30 p.m. Will be at the

home of Fred Pfenninger, 9025 Dewberry Ct. One of the features is a wonderful door prize. Call Fred, 879-951 or Henry Leopold, 259-1748, for details and you reservations. Promises to be a "fun"-derful affair.

Flash! March is the month when millions of Americans yearn to get back to the "Old Sod!" — some as Irishmen, and the rest golfers.

Flash! Congrats to Herb and Shirley Kulwin, who celebrated with an open house, at their new warehouse and showroom, 5500 W. 52nd St. Good luck in your new business home.

Flash! I love this. When

OBITUARIES

Harry Greenberg, 84, taken by death

Harry David Greenberg, 84, Las Vegas, Nev., formerly of Indianapolis, died Friday. Graveside services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Indianapolis Hebrew Cemetery North. Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Meridian Hills Mortuary is handling arrangements. He had owned and operated Sport Styles, Rockford, Ill., for about 40 years, retiring in 1981. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association. Survivors, wife, Betty Arkin Greenberg; daughter, Barbara G. Baile; son, Richard L. Greenberg; sister, Rose Wynn; five grandchildren.

Rose H. Roth, 82, taught in Chicago

Rose Hoffenberg Roth, 82, died Saturday. She was eulogized in services Monday in Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Meridian Hills Mortuary and Tuesday at graveside in Miami.

Mrs. Roth taught 32 years in Chicago schools, retiring in 1968. She was a 1928 graduate of Chicago Normal College and a 1929 graduate of DePaul University.

A member of the Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, its Temple Sisterhood and Hadassah, she was the widow of Irving Roth.

Survivors include her daughter, Renee Oppenheim; brother, Sidney Hoffenberg, and four grandchildren.

Lazerov

ment from the Tucker firm said.

The honor of being a CRS is held by fewer than 2 percent of Realtor-associates, the statement said. The honor reflects completion of special courses, plus demonstrated expertise.

the secretary returned home from her vacation, she asked her boss, "Would you like to see where I got sunburned?" The boss said, "I certainly would." So she showed him a picture of Miami Beach.

Flash! Welcome home to Bob/Celia Klein and Joann/Aaron Rubin after their trip to California and Lake Tahoe. While in California, they visited with Leon/Ronnie Cohen, former Indy residents... Ricky and Jack Cohen did the Florida scene and then on to Atlanta where they loved seeing daughter Sharon and family... Margie Layton enjoyed visiting her cousin Eric Lipp, on her trip to Phoenix.

Shirley Kaplan, 74, dies

Shirley L. Lerner Kaplan, 74, died Friday, March 1.

Services were Sunday in Aaron-Ruben-Nelson Meridian Hills Mortuary.

Mrs. Kaplan was a member of Congregation Beth-El Zedek.

Flash! Happy birthday greetings in March to Sidney Maurer, Harry Nadler, Louis Pintchuck, Joyce Steinberg, Naomi Budd, Adele Silver, Steve Nahmias and Frank Schwartz. Happy March anniversary to Selma/John Hurwitz; Betty/Bernie Berger; Audrey/Dave Cohen; Morris(Amos)/Esther Nahmias; Herb/Linda Melrose; Idabelle/Herb Marer and Miriam/Meyer Satinsky. You-all have fun.

Flash! A dirty trick? Everytime I took a bath, my telephone rang. So I complained to the phone company, and they came and took away my bathtub.

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Irwin Marer & Ray Heilman

Documentarist

Continued from page 5
from film footage and it will be as perfect as the original," while there is a great loss of quality in retaping, he said.

Maultra has talked to some Holocaust survivors, but said he expects to place little emphasis on the Holocaust, just as he touched only briefly on the Ku Klux Klan in his documentary on Indiana's blacks.

"I've got so much history to cover that people don't know about that is in a positive vein, I don't want to dwell on the negative," he said.

"This is going to be the one and only TV documentary done on our Jewish community. I want to do it right. If people say, 'Let someone else come up with the movies or pictures' it won't be as good as it can be," Maultra said.

He said he hopes to air the documentary the last week of

April.

Previously in the series, he has done documentaries on the Slovenians, the Greeks, the Germans and the Italians of Indianapolis and TV histories of President Benjamin Harrison and of the Indiana Pacers in their American Basketball Association days.

The state Board of Education will use the series and this program, he said. It will be used also by local colleges for multicultural courses.

"It is used in every single library in the Indiana library system. At one time, it was the most widely checked out title" of its type, he said.

While Channel 16 is cable only and seen only in Marion County, "I think it's something that other entities would like to air," Maultra said. He said he has reason to hope that other television outlets locally will re-air the show.

CRITIC'S CORNER

Zeffirelli's 'Hamlet' enchants

By CHARLES EPSTEIN

One of the biggest artistic surprises of the motion picture industry is a new version of William Shakespeare's "Hamlet." Director



Franco Zeffirelli mesmerizes his audience with brilliant scenes. The set design and photography are of outstanding quality. As is the acting.

Mel Gibson stars as the

troubled great Dane. Gibson's interpretation of the soul-searching prince of Denmark is slightly different than anything we've seen previously. He is constantly on the verge of madness. Yet shouting and screaming would be beneath him. Gibson gives us new shades of his enormous talent. Mostly underplaying this most difficult of Shakespearean roles Gibson adds a definite athletic quality.

If an Oscar could be given to a complete supporting cast it should be given to this one. Glenn Close is marvelous as Gertrude, Hamlet's mother. Her love for her son is shown in abundance, almost to the point of incest. Alan Bates plays Claudius, the wicked uncle who kills Hamlet's father and marries his brother's widow to rule Denmark. Bates cuts another notch to his glorious career. Not only does he deliver his dialogue perfectly but his acting without saying a word is a joy to behold.

Ian Holm portrays Polonius, whose name unfortunately is not mentioned after Hamlet kills him. In fact most of the characters are inadequately identified. This is the only "flaw" if there is a flaw. Holm's acting is superb.

But the man who comes away with greatest of the acting honors is Paul Scofield. He portrays Hamlet's father and his scenes are as a ghost. He returns and reveals to Hamlet how his dastardly brother, Claudius, killed him. Scofield's scenes are absolutely breathtaking. The audience is spellbound. Not a muscle moves while he is on the screen. A pin dropping in the audience would resound like a bomb.

Zeffirelli should have

been nominated for an Academy Award as director of this virtuoso film. His intimate scenes are gripping and crawl straight into the minds of his players. The sweeping vistas of exteriors are gorgeous panorama. The camera work is excellent.

Shakespearean purists might be taken aback at this film. Some of the events are out of sequence. Some of the most familiar lines of dialogue are absent. But who cares as long as everything makes sense and the beauty of Shakespeare's words blends with the majesty of Zeffirelli's directorial splendor.

Some of the lines you will not hear are "Something is rotten in the state of Denmark," "Speak the speech, I pray you" as Hamlet trains the acting troupe, and "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead." Zeffirelli shows us how Rosencrantz and Guildenstern die. There is no necessity for us to be told they are already dead.

If you are wondering if you'll have trouble following the plot or understanding what is going on in the scene, have no fear. Zeffirelli has made it simple without squandering the beauty of Shakespeare's dialogue. Actually that is what impresses the most, the complete beauty of this motion picture, in sight as well as in sound.

"Hamlet" has been nominated for only two Academy Awards, for costume design and art direction. It deserved many more.

Jewish trivia question: What debonair star was born Eugene Klass?

Answer to last week's question: Tony Randall was born Leonard Rosenberg.

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Opportunity awaits

As with other prognosticators who stated that Saddam Hussein would yield before the start of the Desert War, we were wrong. So your guess is as good and perhaps better than ours, but it is incomprehensible that Israel will suffer in the post-war decisions that affect her. Israel is on the winning side and her Arab immediate neighbors — Egypt, Jordan and Syria were divided, which eliminates two of them, Egypt which is at peace with Israel and Jordan which was on the losing side. That leaves only Syria, who while on the winning side, will receive many benefits because of that, but not at the expense of Israel.

That analysis does not rule out that Israel may be forced to make concessions, but these will be offset or bolstered by what will also be conditions that lead to peace, not alone with Syria, but also with Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries as well.

The precise questions are what will happen to the West Bank and Gaza and also the Golan Heights? A satisfactory solution will remain to be worked out between Israel and the United States, principally, but it is inconceivable that anything will be forced on Israel that she cannot accept.

As far as the Golan Heights, Israel seems to be ready, without too much persuasion to demilitarize it, but will by no means concede it to Syria or to some kind of joint control. In fact, there are no Syrians on the Golan Heights. Possibly a few miles of the heights could be relinquished to Syria, those near her border.

That is the possible scenario.

The Gulf War is over and Israel's worst Arab enemy — Iraq — who fought against her more viciously than any of the Arab nations, including Egypt, is no longer a threat, now or for the future years. Iraq, it must be remembered, does not have a common border with Israel, yet she joined in with the other Arab nations to seek to wipe her out.

There will be decisions for Israel to make as the situation stabilizes, but on the whole Israel is now in a stronger position in the Middle East than she was before Aug. 2, 1990.

Another bonus is the declining role of Russia, which today is hardly one of a dominant world power. She was a thorn in the side, to put it mildly, to Israel, taking as she has the side of the Arab nations, Syria and Iraq to be precise, and Egypt at one time, against Israel. Whether or not with Gorbachev, Russia will suffer from the post-war developments as far as Israel and the Arab world is concerned. She will be treated courteously, that is by the West, and welcomed back warmly by the Arabs who will be relying on a weak reed now.

No doubt Israel will take the lead in offering solutions to her relations not only with the Palestinians in the territories but also to her Arab neighbors. There is an opening now, small as it may be, and it should not be lost. It could mean the end of hostilities against Israel and peace in the Middle East.

Tourism surge now expected

JERUSALEM — The Gulf War's end signals a surge in tourism, which will be a godsend to hotels and other establishments that relied on visitors. Meanwhile all

the airlines, with the possibility of only TWA not participating, have announced resumption of flights to Israel. TWA is facing financial problems.

March 6, 1991 Page NAT 2

One of the dividends of publishing a Jewish weekly paper is the friendships one establishes with rabbis, and we have been fortunate in that respect. In fact our name was changed as a result of the friendship we had with Rabbi Stephen S. Wise. He had published a monthly magazine called "Opinion" and some months after his death, we were offered it, even though it was a monthly and we were a weekly, on the basis of our fulfilling the subscriptions and adding its name to ours.

Rabbi Wise was the leading rabbi of his day and of course was a powerhouse in the non-Jewish world, so that there were some important national advertising accounts that we inherited from Opinion at the same time.

We are recalled to our friendship with Rabbi Wise by the death of Rabbi Nathan Perilman, which you will read about in this issue. If we are not mistaken, the lithograph of Temple Emanuel by Grossman which graces the wall of our office, no 127 to be exact, came as a gift from Rabbi Perilman. We've related in this "chair" before but will repeat an incident involving him which may give you some insight into the way national Jewish organizations dominated Jewish life in the 1940s and thereabouts. We had made a trip to New York to attend the annual meeting of the American Jewish Committee at which Jacob Blaustein, with whom we were on a friendly basis, was to be inducted as its president. It was at the hotel which is no longer there on the west side of Broadway just north of 42nd St.

We were seated at a table with Sidney Hollander, a former president of the Council of Jewish Federations, with whom we were close enough so that we visited him in Baltimore and he it was who invited us in to the sessions of the budget and policy meetings of the organization, whereas today we're lucky to get even into the hotel where the organization is holding its General Assembly.

To get on to our story, it was a luncheon and no one took any notice of us, but when the business session got under way, we saw John Slawson, then the executive vice president, nod to one of his staff who walked over to our table and told us that we would have to leave. Downhearted, we walked out of the hotel, donned our raincoat, since there was a drizzle, and started walking aimlessly suffering from a combination of disappointment and anger. As it turned out we soon found ourself on

Fifth Ave. heading north, and we just kept on walking. When we got within a few blocks of Temple Emanu-El, we decided to drop in and get off our chest our bitterness — we just had to talk to someone — to Rabbi Perilman.

Fortunately he was in his office, and he did the job rabbis are trained for. He listened and with a few comments, that did it for us — we had just had to speak to someone and he recognized our anguish and did just that — assuaged our resentment against a paid official of a national organization that dominated to the extent that even the president would comply with his wishes.

We envied Rabbi Perilman in his retirement, since it was at the place for which there is a warm spot in our heart — Chapel Hill, N.C., the seat of the University of North Carolina. When we attended the 50th anniversary of our class of 1930, which is over 10 years ago, we looked up Rabbi Perilman, but he was out of town at the time.

Rabbi Perilman was not a graduate of the University, but it was ideal for retirement of any intellectual, considering what the environment offered in that respect and of course the mild but not enervating weather in the foothills of the Piedmont region.

The death of Rabbi Simcha Kling of Louisville's Adath Jeshurun Congregation, which was my congregation when we were living in Louisville, came after years in which he battled a heart condition and finally was unable to continue in the pulpit, one of the finest Conservative congregations in America, solid and very strongly supported, plus with a regular attendance which would be the envy of many larger congregations. We knew Simcha from the days when he was still studying in the Jewish Theological Seminary, which goes way, way back.

We attended services there from time to time, especially when there was a bat or bar mitzvah in the family, but on other occasions also. What intrigued us, and what we commented on here several times in years back was how the sermon session was usually transformed into a classroom format, with questions from the pulpit and answers from the congregation. If there is a better way to inculcate information about Judaism, meanwhile adding some spice to the

Continued on next page

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29 gay, lesbian rabbis praise Reform

Letter from 29 rabbis

Dear editor,

We are lesbian and gay rabbis from across North America. We are Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist and Reform. We are proud to be Jewish and proud to be gay and lesbian. Some of us are single. Some of us are in committed relationships. Some of us have been blessed with children. Some of us are gay and lesbian, yet still living as heterosexuals. Our diversity mirrors that of the Jewish community we serve.

Recently, we were pleased by the Central Conference of American Rabbis' resolution to ordain and accept openly gay and lesbian rabbis. At the same time we were pained and saddened by negative reactions which emanated from some quarters in our Jewish community.

As rabbis, we preach, teach, counsel, and minister to the Jewish community. We are respected spiritual leaders. We have welcomed babies into our communities. We have trained and inspired countless B'nai and B'not Mitzvah. We have sanctified loving relationships. We have comforted the sick. We have buried the dead. We have consoled the bereaved. We have observed, taught and perpetuated mitzvot. What distresses us is the demand that we separate our personal lives from our rabbinic careers.

It is time for us to be accepted for who we really are: committed Jews and rabbis who also are lesbians and gay men. We would like to be open with those we serve, both for their sake and for our own. Many of us continue to pay a terrible price for living two lives, yet we fear that the consequences of "coming out" would be even more damaging, including the possibility of losing the jobs which we hold and having to leave the profession which we cherish. A few of us have "come out" to find new challenges confronting us as we continue to serve the Jewish people, and fortunately some of us have found both ourselves and our communities enriched by our openness.

We commend the Central Conference of American Rabbis on its courageous action. We look forward to the day when the other movements in our community will affirm us as well. We have the right to share the fullness of our lives with the communities we serve.

Rabbi Rebecca Alpert
Rabbi Allen B. Bennett
Rabbi Denise L. Eger
Rabbi Julie Greenberg
Rabbi Linda Holtzman
Rabbi Yoel Kahn
Rabbi Sanford Lowe
Rabbi Eric Weiss

and 21 other Gay and Lesbian Rabbis

Allison Atlas recovering, convalesces in Baltimore

BALTIMORE — The good news is that Allison Atlas, the New York University student, who was near death from leukemia and as a last resort was treated with bone marrow from her mother, and even then had to fight off Graft-Versus-Host disease as a result is now convalescing. Some \$3 million had been expended in an attempt to find a bone marrow donor that would match that of Allison's.

"When Allison left here (the Fred Hutchinson Cancer

Research Center in Seattle) all the doctors said in no uncertain terms that they saw no signs of leukemia or the graft-host disease, said Ann Beringer, spokeswoman for the Center. There is no guarantee against remission and Allison continues to require periodic blood transfusions and a return to Seattle next fall for a checkup.

Dr. John Hansen, her physician at the Center, said "we are increasingly optimistic about her progress."

Reichmanns get apology from Canadian magazine

TORONTO — An abject apology by Toronto Life, a leading Canadian monthly, has been made as part of an out-of-court settlement of the \$102 million libel suit brought against the publication by the Reichmanns, an Orthodox family of billionaire industrialists.

At issue was a 55,000-word article titled, "The Mysterious Reichmanns: The Untold Story," by Elaine Dewar. She had travelled as far as Hungary, Vienna, London, Morocco, Israel and New York to trace the fortunes of the Reichmann family and their firm, Olympia & York Developments, Ltd.

The apology stated, "Let us unequivocally and categorically say that any and all negative insinuations and allegations about the Reichmann family and Olympia and York are totally false."

It added that the Reichmann family has "earned an enviable reputation" for charitable and business dealings in Canada, Tangier, Vienna and Hungary.

In addition to the apology, the settlement calls for the magazine to make substantial donations to major Canadian medical and scientific foundations.

The Reichmann story includes their strict adherence to Orthodoxy, which finds them donating 10 percent of their profits to charity, and preventing Sabbath work on any of their buildings under construction. The family owns more office space in Manhattan than any other concern and currently is engaged in a gigantic building operation in London that probably is the largest in the history of the world by one organization.

Disposal time for war material

TEL AVIV — It's disposal time for accoutrement of war, including gas masks which will be preserved for another day, but millions of yards of adhesive tape peeled off of windows and door frames, plus some 1.2 million square yards of clear plastic sheeting, which cannot be recycled. The plastic is not biodegradable and the Ministry of Environmental

Protection has advised that the tape and sheets separately be compressed into balls as small as possible, then brought by the children to schools, which will become central collection points for recycling companies, which up until now have been collecting wastepaper, bottles and metal cans.

Powerful battery being developed

REHOVOT — An improved storage battery that could increase the power of electric automobiles and enhance the capabilities of electrical power plants has been developed by two researchers — Profs. Joost Manassen of the Weizmann Institute and Israel Cabasso of N.Y. State University, Syracuse, N.Y.

Brad Gilbert named mystery person

As you will read in the letter on our Freedom of the Press page in this issue from Dr. Stephen H. Jackson of Monte Sereno, Ca, he named Brad Gilbert, the tennis player, correctly as the Mystery Person. The first clue — The Mystery Person is a large contributor to the Israel Tennis Centers — referred to the fact that he not only was a founder of the Centers but whenever he would win an Israeli tournament, he would contribute his winnings to it.

The second clue referred to his sister, Dana, who in 1977 won the singles at the Maccabiah. The third clue, that he began his career at age four, is accurate. His father, a history and social studies teacher, decided early that his three children could make a successful career in tennis. How right he was, since just this year, Brad won a cool million dollars by finishing second in one of those tourneys where only the top few international champions com-



Brad Gilbert

Zachary, along with him on tournaments. Asked if he would follow the tradition established by his father and start Zachary on a tennis career when he reached four years old, he answered in the negative. "No," he replied. "I'm going to recommend golf to Zachary. You don't get hurt so easily, and you have a really long career. Not that I can visualize ever giving up tennis for golf or anything else myself. It's a great game and I'm going to play it as long as I live."

Editor's chair

Continued from prev. page

services, we are unaware of it.

So Rabbi Kling was as innovative as he was successful, and if we can risk a guess, his true avocation was as a teacher.

He was succeeded a few years ago by his assistant, Rabbi Robert Slosberg, who has carried on with much success.

Our own association with the congregation was when Rabbi Jacob J. Gittelman held sway and there never was a

pete.

The final clue that the Mystery Person reached the finals of the NCAA in 1982 refers to his playing for Pepperdine University and winning the national collegiate tennis title.

An article in The Jerusalem Post some time ago noted that Gilbert takes his wife, Kim, and son,

question — that time is long gone — whether a Jewish family would or would not belong to a congregation. It was a foregone conclusion that every family belonged to one or another congregation, and every newly-married couple in forming a new home became a member almost as a matter of routine. Incidentally and not pertinent to the subject of this "chair," also a reader of the local Jewish publication.

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Why so few terror incidents speculated Time is ripe

Continued from page NAT 1

WASHINGTON — Congressman Stephen Solarz was able to dismiss the two bodyguards that protected him during the Gulf War and security officials were congratulating themselves over the absence of any important terror outbreaks that had been predicted from Arab nations which have not been reticent with such threats. Presumably other Jewish Congressman also had been provided protection.

An article in Monday's New York Times speculated on why there were so few incidents and quoted unnamed American

officials to the effect that Western intelligence services had foiled a number of planned terrorist attacks. It added that the expulsion of Iraqi diplomats from Western nations probably had averted many more. Syria and even Libya were credited with reining in terrorist groups for obvious reasons.

In addition it was possible that allied bombing of Iraqi communications facilities had weakened its ability to direct the terrorism it had threatened.

Netherlands recall 'February Strike'

AMSTERDAM — The Netherlands which had one of the worst records for complying with the Nazis marked the 50th anniversary of the "February Strike," a spontaneous protest by Amsterdam workers, members of the Communist Party, on Feb. 25-26, 1941 against the first deportations of Dutch Jews with Queen Beatrix and her husband, Prince Claus in attendance. All 425 of the Jews died at the Mauthausen concentration camp within a few months.

2nd N.Y. paper Jewish-owned?

NEW YORK — The possibility that two of New York's three daily papers may be owned by Jewish publishers grew this week as Robert Maxwell, publishing tycoon of London, began negotiations with the owners of The Daily New to be followed by ones with the striking unions. The News is set to close shop by March 20 unless a buyer is found or settlement with its unions is achieved. The New York Times is owned by the Sulzberger family.

Loia P. Kamarsky, headed Hadassah

NEW YORK — Death at the age of 95 came to Loia P. Kamarsky, former president of Hadassah, who had served in that post from 1960 to 1964.

Natives of Hamburg, Germany, the family fled the country in 1932 for the Netherlands, arriving in the U.S. in 1940. A twin brother had died in action with the German Army in World War I.

The family was close to Dr. Chaim Weizmann.

Rabbi Simcha Kling dies in Louisville

LOUISVILLE — Rabbi Simcha Kling, who served Adath Jeshurun Congregation as rabbi and as emeritus, died after a bout of more than 10 years with a heart ailment and cancer. He continued to teach a weekly class after becoming rabbi emeritus in 1988.

fronted. "We have got to find a way for the Arab states and Israel to make peace, and we have got to find a way for Israelis and Palestinians to begin a dialogue." He said he had a "gut feeling" that both the Israelis and the Arab countries want to find a solution, "but that doesn't mean 'it's going to happen.'"

Baker practically ruled out any role for the PLO. He said "I think that he was seriously and substantially hurt," referring to Arafat.

Meanwhile in Israel Foreign Minister Davy Levy is taking a peace proposal to London where he will be meeting with British officials. Levy is being accused of readiness to cede the Golan Heights because of his willingness to talk to the Syrians without conditions.

Prime Minister Shamir is known to favor the plan for elections in the territories of leaders for talks with Israel leading to a possible form of self-government after five years.

A Jewish Telegraphic Agency report from Jerusalem stated that influential Arab leaders in the territories are beginning to recognize the need for a "new Palestinian order" within the context of the larger "new order" that is likely to emerge in the Middle East.

Op-ed page columnist for the New York Times William Safire stated that the Palestinians in the territories "are entitled to citizenship in a homeland — now called Jordan, soon to be Palestine — with genuine autonomy in associated areas of Israel's West Bank and Gaza. It's not everything, but it beats 40 more years of nothing."

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger favored a second look at Shamir's peace proposal, but with some modifications for it to gain widespread acceptance as a viable peace initiative. "Israel will have to go further. This much is clear," he said. He refused to speculate on what changes would be necessary. He too believes that the PLO has shot itself in the foot. "The PLO is out of it," he said.

PLO not a state, sued in Klinghoffer murder

NEW YORK — The PLO, its financial condition critically circumscribed, may have to fork over an unknown but large sum of money for its role in the murder of Leon Klinghoffer, the 69-year-old wheelchair-bound Jewish man shot and thrown into the Mediterranean during the October, 1985 hijacking of the Achille Lauro cruise ship. Klinghoffer's relatives have sued the PLO for an unspecified amount of money, and the case rests at this point on whether the PLO can substantiate that it is a sovereign state and therefore is not liable under a 1976 U.S. law that makes them immune from such law suits. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit will decide the issue, since a lower court has ruled against the PLO.

The Anti-Defamation League has filed a friend-of-court brief, specifying that "The PLO does not have the fundamental legal attributes of a state, including defined territory, a functioning government that controls a territory, or a permanent population."

The importance of the case rests on the vulnerability of the PLO to suits for violations of law in which Americans are victimized.

Robbers are busy despite missiles

TEL AVIV — The robbers were busy even though Scud missiles were winging toward Israel and at Acre two men, Dani Alon, 26, and Zion Cohen, 25, were sentenced to six months in jail, and fined for committing burglaries

during air-raid alarms. Meanwhile at Bat Yam, two robbers, their faces covered with gas masks, raided the Aviv jewelers shop and made off with the contents of several trays of jewelry.

Did the rebbe prophesy date gulf war to end?

NEW YORK — A spokesman for the Lubavitch movement, Rabbi Yehuda Krinsky, would not characterize the redaction of the Rebbe that the Gulf War would end on or near Purim as a prophecy, but described it as "ruach hakodesh, holy spirit that you and I don't have. This is the rebbe," he added.

The Rebbe is said to have told a chaplain serving in the U.S. armed forces, who is Lubavitch, months before the ground war began that the war would end on or near Purim.

The chaplain had visited the rebbe last November to receive the regulation dollar the rebbe gives to all visitors for charity and a blessing.

OBITUARIES

Rabbi N. Perilman dies, of N.Y. Temple Emanu-El

NEW YORK — One of the largest funerals at Temple Emanu-El in years bid farewell to one of its former spiritual leaders, Rabbi Nathan A. Perilman. He lived at Chapel Hill, N.C. where he had retired as he ended his career in 1973 as rabbi of the one of the world's best-known congregations.

He was 85 years old.

Many innovations were introduced during his stewardship, including bar and bat mitzvahs, and a mid-week religious school.

He was born in Marietta, O., a city from which many prominent Jews originated and now are leaders in Ft. Worth, Tulsa and elsewhere.

A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, he was ordained at Hebrew Union College in 1932. Florida Southern University granted him a Doctor of Laws degree in 1952 and HUC a Doctor of Divinity degree in 1954.

He held leadership roles in many Jewish organizations.

Isadore Hamlin, 74; Zionist executive

NEW YORK — Isadore Hamlin, better known as Itzik, who headed aliyah promotion and Zionist education in America for the World Zionist Organization, died at the age of 74 after a long illness. He was the American Section of the WZO's first executive direc-

tor when it was established in 1971.

During World War II he served with the U.S. Army in military intelligence and was decorated with the Bronze Star. He was able to assist concentration camp survivors to immigrate to what was to become Israel.

He then joined the Jewish Agency in Washington and played a role in the recognition of Israel as a Jewish state. By 1949 he was brought into the New York office and later named executive director of the American Section of the Agency.

A native of Cambridge, Mass., he was a graduate of Cornell University and did graduate work at the New School for Social Research here.

Death notice

Rabbi Simcha Kling

We record with sorrow the passing of our beloved colleague of Louisville, Kentucky and extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and to all who were blessed by his fellowship and ministry.

Rabbi Irwin Groner, President
Rabbi Joel H. Meyers,
Executive Director
The Rabbinical Assembly

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'The Disputation'

By RABBI ELLIOT B. GERTEL

The Arts and Entertainment network is to be applauded for presenting, this season, *The Disputation*, a fascinating play by Hyam Mac-



coby which explored a 30th century disputation on the merits of Judaism and Christianity. Christopher Lee offers a winning performance as King James of Aragon who is pressured by the Church into arranging a contest of wit and theology between Rabbi Moses ben Nahman, the legendary Jewish authority, and Pablo Christiani, an apostate Talmudic scholar. The latter two are deftly portrayed, respectively, by Alan Dobie and Bob Pech.

It seems that the King has a conscience and an unsinkable regard for Jews. He complains that his affairs were better handled when Jews were allowed to do so. True, he was always a bit taken aback, he said, by his impression that Jews didn't revere anyone too much, but he never went as far as his wife who insisted that reverence is only a Christian virtue.

He is also not sure that it's right to seek to convert all the Jews. When he asks his mistress whether it is fair to make all the Jews "sinful Christians like us," she responds: "There have to be Jews, doesn't there? You couldn't convert the devil. It would put the pope and all the priests out of a job." Besides, she adds, Jews are "learned people" who "know everything there is to know about magic," and thus it would be "impossible to convert them." She concludes that "if all the Jews become Christians, who will crucify Jesus for us?"

The play thus makes the point that even those who were inclined to defend Jews against conversion did so out of strange stereotypes of Jews. King James is portrayed as "nice" because he refuses to use the same violent methods of conversion as were used against the Jews of France. The

play communicates something of the irony of such definitions of "nice," but may also fail to communicate the deadly consequences of offending the authorities or "losing" such disputations precisely because this particular king was so unusually fair. There is always a danger of underplaying the tensions and violence of particular evils. The classic example of this, of course, is the mini-pogrom in the film, *Fiddler on the Roof*, which comes across more as a group mugging than as a pogrom.

In *The Disputation*, the King's views do make for an interesting character study

blasphemous.

The king also displays a true ambivalence toward conversion of the Jews which is presented almost as a foreshadowing of religious tolerance. He tells the rabbi: "One doesn't change one's religion on the basis of a few days of verbal fencing. Besides, it was a pleasure to see someone fighting with words instead of with a broadsword." Though the king says, "I've seldom seen so unjust a cause so skillfully argued," he also manages to tell the rabbi: "You're either too good or too evil for me." The king's final remarks in the play are particularly touching, as are his last scenes

The play thus makes the point that even those who were inclined to defend Jews against conversion did so out of strange stereotypes of Jews. King James is portrayed as "nice" because he refuses to use the same violent methods of conversion as were used against the Jews of France. The play communicates something of the irony of such definitions of "nice," but may also fail to communicate the deadly consequences of offending the authorities or "losing" such disputations precisely because this particular king was so unusually fair. There is always a danger of underplaying the tensions and violence of particular evils.

even though they fail to convey the horrors of the typical medieval disputation. King James sees the Jews as "ordinary people who are wrong on points of theology," and hopes that in "putting them right" he will become "part of God's plan" and thus "wipe away" his own sins, including adultery. He does not see the Jews as demonic, despite the beliefs of his wife and mistress, and assures the safety of Jews before, during, and after the disputation. He even allows the rabbi to use whatever arguments he wishes, including arguments that Church authorities would regard as

with the rabbi.

In fact, the dialogue and character analysis in *The Disputation* are continually insightful. Many of the lines are delicious, both in the disputation itself and in the character studies. Thus, for example, Pablo Christiani the apostate Jew confesses that he misses the festivals and the synagogue music. During the Disputation, the rabbi states his reason for concluding that the messiah has not yet come: "If this is the new world of which the Prophets spoke, it would have been better had they remained silent. It seems

Continued on page 14

'Underground' at Yale

By IRENE BACKALENICK

The opening of Joshua Sobol's *"Underground"* at the Yale Repertory Theatre in New Haven, Conn. should have been a world-class



event. Advance notices, which billed the occasion as a world premiere, suggested just that. And, for those of us who are long-time admirers of this Israeli playwright, the occasion was fraught with excitement and anticipation. Sobol is Israel's most provocative playwright, and, as Haifa Municipal Theatre's artistic director and resident playwright, has created a remarkable body of work.

But "should have been" are the key words here. Given this writer, this noted regional theater director (Adrian Hall) and this material, *"Underground"* should have been top-drawer theater, but, alas, it fails in just about every respect.

The story deals with the Vilna Ghetto in Lithuania in 1941 and reflects Sobol's continuing obsession with

the Holocaust. ("Adam and Ghetto" were previous pieces of this triptych.) A group of doctors have set up an underground ward in the Jewish hospital, and, in the play's two-year span, doctors hide a typhus epidemic from their Nazi masters. To reveal the epidemic would spell instant death for the entire community, and the doctors use every means to falsify charts and symptoms.

Sobol's theme is the exploration of evil, focussing on, not the Nazis, but the Jews themselves. How do men choose between greater and lesser evils? How do they choose between the life of an old man and the life of a child? The Ghetto leaders examine the questions, not as philosophical abstractions, but as life-and-death issues. The Nazis are a pervasive presence a menacing background, but it is the Jews who play out the drama front and center.

How could a tale that focusses on the greatest tragedies and deepest concerns of our time be less than searing, powerful, overwhelming? Why doesn't *"Underground"* succeed?

The fact is that the play comes across as flat, static, dead, dull. From its sterile gray/black set to its two-

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A troubled Jacob Gens (Jack Willis in foreground), the Chief of the Jewish police, solicits the help of Dr. Berka Weiner (Martin Rayner in background) with his plan to save Vilna's plague-infected Jews from certain death at the hands of the Nazis in Joshua Sobol's *"Underground."* The world premiere production of *"Underground"* plays through March 16 at the Yale Repertory Theatre in New Haven.

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YOUR NAME

By David L. Gold
Column No. 75

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Mirror, mirror and the wall

Were I asked for the meaning of the Ashkenazic FN Spiegelman, not knowing any related names, I would take it to designate a maker and seller of mirrors (from German Spiegel, Yiddish shpigl, both meaning "mirrors"). But as shown several times in this column, looking at all forms of a name and taking into account their frequency, one sometimes comes to question facile, one-or two-line explanations. I believe that such is the case of Ashkenazic FNs referring to mirrors.

A Dictionary of Surnames lists these Ashkenazic FNs: Spiegel, Spegelman and Spiegel (each with two spelling variants), to which can be added Spiegelblatt, Spiegelstein, Spiegelglas, Spiegelberg, Spiegelberger and Wohlspiegel. Spiegel is frequent and Spiegel is especially frequent. We thus have nine names, some of which are not uncommon, yet I've never heard that mirror-making was an especially common occupation among Ashkenazic Jews at the time of family-name acquisition or before that time (let's hear from you on this). Furthermore, mirrors were once luxuries, which only the well-to-do (read: mostly non-Jews) could afford.

Although Spiegler does seem to mean "maker and seller of mirrors" (this is how Spiegler as a non-Jewish FN is explained), my hunch is that behind many of the other variants (or, at least, many tokens of them) lies something completely different.

Because they are closest to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, seats closest to the eastern wall of synagogues have traditionally been favored by Ashkenazim and considered the most prestigious ones. This wall of the synagogue is called *mizrekhev-vant* ("The eastern wall") or *di shpiglvant* ("the mirror wall") in Yiddish (these two synonyms are treated unevenly in Harkavy's Yiddish-English-Hebrew Dictionary: the first one is translated merely as "Eastern wall," the second is explained a bit fuller in English and fullest in Hebrew).

My guess is that many of these names were chosen by people who sat near the eastern wall. That would explain why there are so many forms of the name and why several of them are rather frequent. Let it be also noted that one of the meanings of the Yiddish word *shpigl* is "paragon."

I've been asked about these FNs, only a few of which are clear to me: *Bekermus* (from a nickname composed of Yiddish *beker*, meaning "baker," and *moyz*, meaning "mouse?" If so, there must be an interesting story behind the nickname. The spelling -mus appears to reflect a South-eastern Yiddish pronunciation of the word for "mouse").

Tulipman (this name has nothing to do with tulips, but is derived from the Eastern Yiddish word *tulip*, meaning "sheepskin coat;" there's also a word *vegtulip*, meaning "sheepskin coat for travelers" — but precisely how this FN was acquired is unclear).

Wegweiser (from Yiddish *vegvayzer*, meaning "guide" — too bad the querent did not place the name geographically; during Napoleon's Russian Campaign, in 1812, his troops forced local Jews to be their guides, since they could not rely on local Russians; the exact route of Napoleon's route from Koenigsberg to Moscow and back being known, if the querent could place his FN someone on or near those routes, it would be virtually certain that one of his ancestors was impressed as a guide for the French; a drawing of one of these Jewish guides can be seen in columns 137-138 of the *Algemeyne Entsiklopedye*, vol. D, New York, 1950).

I have no idea about the origin of *Gruskin*, *Grushkin*, *Magenheim*, *Neckman*, *Reidiboym*, *Ruttenbaum* or *Spenciner*.

Next week we'll be talking about *Siberia*, *shysters* and *synagoges*.

Sermon of the week

Modern Jewish Thin-ology — Rabbi Jeffrey K. Salkin, Central Synagogue of Nassau County, Rockville Centre, N.Y.

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YOUR TORAH

Of war and peace

By RABBI JAMES PONET

War may be, as Von Clausewitz had it, "merely a continuation of political intercourse with the addition of other means." But war and not



politics, we note, regularly leads to massive slaughter and destruction, the dislocation of whole societies, the creation of hideous camps for displaced persons and that most unbounded of activities which contemporary jurists and others call "war crimes:" torture of prisoners, terrorist attacks on civilians, genocide.

While Jewish religious authority has, ever since Exodus, countenanced and sometimes commanded war, it has also asserted a deep visionary tradition of yearning and working for peace. It may well be that the preciousness of peace did not fully penetrate the Israelite soul until after Jeremiah wrote his Lamentations, that is, until the Israelites had suffered defeat, destruction and exile at the hands of their Babylonian enemies.

But no matter. Jews today, although they have returned by dint of arms to their ancient land, nonetheless remain children of exile. Having relearned the art of warfare, they still bear the ancient burden of longing for peace. Hillel's summons that Jews be disciples of Aaron, lovers and pursuers of peace (Avot 1:12); Rabbi Elazar's depiction of the Sage as a person who makes the world more peaceful (T.B. Berachot 64A and daily Prayer Book); Maimonides' teaching that when Messiah comes, "there will be neither famine nor war, neither jealousy nor strife. Blessings will be abundant, comforts within the reach of all." (Kings and Their Wars 12:5) — these internalized foundations prevent Jews from ever totally capitulating to the terms of life characterized by a Realpolitik. There will always be a Jewish peace camp, ready for war, but prepared as well to fight for the rule of words over arms.

Jews yearn for peace; they do not justify war. Never having taught that pacifism is the ideal response to violence, Jewish tradition does not regard any war as just. Some wars are obligatory, like the war to conquer the land of Israel; others are permitted,

like a war of expansion. War is not just. And war is not holy. War in fact threatens to destroy the condition that makes for holiness in the world: rule by God's law.

War threatens to make a mockery of any law save the rules of military exigency. As war takes the moral sting out of the act of murder, turning it into mere "killing," so war flaunts all norms of daily life. War represents precisely the abandonment of all constraint of the desire to destroy. Ever since Deuteronomy, Jewish law has sought both to allow and contain the nihilistic expressions of war. Israelite kings were restricted in their freedom to wage war; international law has its origins in the Bible. While trees might be cut down and used as battering rams to pierce the ramparts of a besieged city, "You may destroy only those trees which you know do not bear fruit." (Deuteronomy 20:20).

The Torah insists that though crippled, law must find a way to hobble through the fields of war. Wounded like Jacob after he battled the angel, the Torah must continue to stumble through the valley of the shadow. The best

example of war-hobbled law is Deuteronomy's treatment of the captivating captive woman (Deuteronomy 21:10-14). The Torah addresses the male will to dominance in the battlefield. It imagines a soldier lusting for a woman whom he has just witnessed being taken prisoner. The law both capitulates to the passions of war, and then tries to contain them. The Torah actually allows battlefield rape; it then details the rights of the woman which the soldier must honor after his act of domination.

The Talmud (Kiddushin 21B) describes this genre of legislation with the phrase: "The Torah speaks to the evil inclination." Torah in effect permits that which it knows it cannot prevent. The soldier will rape; the only question is whether he will do so in violation of law. The law collapses once in order to stand up again. The Talmudic discussion is profoundly ambivalent.

Only if law can function through war as a force for limitation, might it be a force for bringing about harmony outside of war. Can law in fact be a tool for overcoming war? Isn't war after all the most intense form of legalized violence? Yes. But the urging to make peace is also a legal obligation imposed upon this people. A true hero, the Avot d'Rabbi Natan teaches, is the one who knows how to turn his enemy into a friend.

Negotiations seen soon; Israel's hand is stronger

JERUSALEM — The end of the Gulf War and the end of Iraq as a threat to both Arab and Jew has set the stage for what has been generally accepted — efforts to end the strife between Israel and the Arab nations. The intifada is a factor, but the aim of whatever negotiations take place will be much wider — to solve the Arab-Israeli problem once and for all.

Israel enters such negotiations in a much stronger position than could have been expected had the PLO and the unanimous support that the intifada received from every Arab nation still existed. The PLO is discredited, and while the intifada could flare up again, the conditions have changed, radically in fact, and that will be seen as the wheels of restoring tranquility to the Middle East grind to their natural conclusion.

In fact, it is almost a whole new ball game, as will be seen when in the next few months the first stages of decisions followed by negotiations become evident.

So Saddam Hussein, Scud missiles and all, may not realize the favor he has done to what he would designate as his worst enemy, Kuwait notwithstanding.

WHAT I HAVE TO SAY

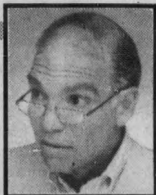
FLEISHMAN'S FLIGHT

Living in the past

Public relations vital

By JIM SHIPLEY

America has always been a place where there is optimism and the unflappable hope that no matter how things are — good or bad —



they will be better tomorrow.

That's something Jimmy Carter did not understand, no matter how well grounded his philosophies might have been. It's something the brain trust around Ronald Reagan understood perfectly and parlayed into eight years in office.

The bright future — the idea that things will be better is a beneficial human emotion. Jews know that in their gut. From the time we were cast out of Israel in 70 A.D. the hope of return, of a better life in the future has sustained us, kept us going when many civilizations and peoples would have (and have faded and died).

The Arab is different. He does not look to tomorrow. The Arab looks to yesterday. The Arab world has had no claim to greatness for 500 years, if you discount squatting on a sea of oil as an excuse for greatness. Even then, much of the literature, the structure of the society, the architecture and the scientific accomplishments were not Arab, but rather the work of peoples under their domination, not the least of which were the Jews.

We hear ad nauseam of Arab dignity. Of their recapturing the lost greatness. It has led them to follow a Nasser, an Assad and now a Saddam. Understanding a people's need for dignity is one thing. Allowing them to control economies and slaughter those they dislike in the name of a lost empire is quite another.

That Arab machismo reaches back into the mists of time to talk of the glory that was theirs. The Arab nation gave us mathematics (therefore accountants. We should thank them for this?). The Arab nation gave us poetry and lovely gardens — and slavery and religious massacres. The

Arab nation was never truly a nation and never truly fully Arab. But, there it is — stuck in their collective memory, true or false.

And when a Saddam Hussein, an Assad, a Nasser or even an Arafat appear on the smudged pages of history we are asked to be tolerant; the Arab identifies with them because of lost dominance and national humiliation. Why is that our problem?

Under the same logic, the Germans should not embrace democracy. They should be forgiven an attitude that would raise up armies and plot new ways to eliminate the Jewish people. After all who suffered a greater loss of dignity and manhood than the German people in 1945? Goodness, it was more than a loss of a war. The government ceased to exist, the people were living in rubble. Somehow, while much of the latent German nature is suspect, democracy and a conforming to the norms of society have indeed prevailed.

The Arab does not ask that we rebuild an economy, or that we teach democracy. The Arab asks that we rewrite history. Well, it is no longer 1210. Or 1492. Or even 1947. The world may not be forming a New Order. But one thing the world is not doing: The world is not going back. Certainly not back to a time when great

armies and despots, whether benevolent or not, dominated much of the world.

The Palestinians who stood on roof tops to cheer Saddam's Scuds must learn that while the Koran might be a book more about blood than faith, it is out of sync with the world as it will be remade in the nineties. Learning from a time that was is good. Yearning for a time that was is called nostalgia. Trying to recreate that time is impossible, to say nothing of unhealthy.

One thing this war has taught those of us who did not know it already. There is no "Arab Nation." The loose collection of tribes and clans who wandered the desert are more about filial lineage than borders and nationhood. The interests they pursue are based on selfish economic interests, with little feel for their ethnic brothers. So be it.

Do not put that burden on

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By ALFRED FLEISHMAN

The December 24th edition of the magazine, New Yorker in "Letter from Jerusalem," dated Dec. 13th, and written by an Israeli,



Amos Elon, makes many important points.

Mr. Elon is quite obviously unhappy with much of what he sees in Israel today. And so are many others.

Here is our beloved Israel, besieged on all sides; an entire world seemingly against it. Its life blood almost running; missile strikes against Tel Aviv by Iraq; thousands of Russian immigrants arriving daily, a shortage of housing and jobs, an economy that needs help very badly, a complicated, factionalized form of government that impedes and prevents any significant movement in almost everything that needs emergency decisions and action, attacks from the inside and the outside, a United Nations, including the United States, that has voted twice to condemn Israel's actions, world media that they, the Israeli Government, insists distorts everything Israel does, etc., etc., etc.

And included in this period and these problems, their own leaders are telling us that they have just about the worst form of government in Israel for the times.

Surely there are some answers and some positive action possible to alleviate some of the defects and the hindrances to effective government action. Sadly enough the Israelis have some of that action in their hands.

Ask anyone of the several thousands of American Jews who heard among others, Rabin of Labor and Netanyahu of Likud at the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations in San Francisco!

Ask the President of the State of Israel, who told the entire world that the present Israeli form of government is one of its own worst enemies! It smells!

And yet any effective

movement to change it is bottled up, especially in, and by, small cliques and parties that help make up the present slim majority of Knesset votes that allow the present government to govern, with no prime minister or Knesset member responsible to an individual vote of the people!

A government by deals? Is that the way to govern in these times?

Is this a symptom of what is really wrong? In almost every meeting throughout the Diaspora these days discussions about Israel and its present situation always seem to end up in arguments over "public relations."

And usually the discussion is by people who know very little, if anything about it.

No professional public relations person worthy of the title would be caught dead trying to sell the idea that public relations is the sole, or even the biggest answer, to Israel's apparent present "tzorus" with the media or the rest of the outside world. It is surely a very important factor.

All too many of the present Israeli government leaders would not give even a nod toward improving their public relations, even if they knew what that meant.

More and more Israel is being boxed in (in addition to its other most serious problems) by either a lack of understanding of the importance of words or a tragic failure to recognize that it is a problem at all!

The entire world, for heavens sake, is engaged in a war of words (at least at the time of the writing of this piece!) Fighting wars with materials and weapons and poison gas alone no longer suffices. It never did.

Words, and how they are used are of the utmost importance. Take two words as an example. There are hundreds of others.

The hang up on words such as "security," used by the Israelis and "inalienable rights," used by the Palestinians constitute a war all by themselves.

Israel is losing that war of words. People and governments are influenced more by "rights" than they are by the word "security." Some ridicule the entire notion that words are vital. It's

force and action alone that counts!

What such people fail to see and understand is that people who are motivated by "rights" are moved by what seems like super strength in their fight for "security."

The American Declaration of Independence talks about the "rights" of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

It was to "secure these rights," that Americans fought. That's what the Palestinians say they are fighting and killing Israelis about. And they are making an imprint.

Many have been obsessed with the word "security," a word which arouses very little sympathy, support or emotion as distinct from the act or action of "security" itself. Of course "security" is paramount!

But the United States has repeated over and over again its verbal guarantees for the "security" of Israel.

And yet we know full well that the United States can't guarantee "security," including those of its own diplomats, citizens or representatives in some foreign countries!

Anyone in his right mind who thinks that America will send troops to defend Israel must be living in an unreal world.

Human "rights" do arouse emotions in people. They are basic to many world programs.

But somehow human "rights" for Jews get lost in the shuffle somewhere.

Could it be the result of misunderstanding, of bad or misplaced Israeli public relations, or lack of effective communication, or an inability to tell our story adequately or correctly to the western world? Or a combination of "all of the above?"

Some Israelis tell us that when we talk about the need for improved public relations, or stressing our "rights," is a play on words, idle public relations talk.

They ignore the fact that the Talmud itself is a commentary, a play on words. Yet how long have Jews argued over these words and their meaning?

But Israeli leaders need to learn that if the right words are not used to explain policy, not only is that policy often totally

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First-hand account of conditions

An incident in Gaza

Perhaps six or seven years ago or more on returning from one of our trips to Israel on El Al our seat companion was a student at Harvard who was writing her Ph.D. theses on the situation in the West Bank and Gaza. As we conversed it became clear that she had become one of the few authorities on the treatment of the Palestinians and she worked closely with Meron Benevisti, the Israeli government official who was in charge of the territories. She had been published before we met. Since then she has appeared before a congressional committee and has been back a number of times, as you will read below, to continue her research. Had the first long and critical report from her that we published been heeded by the Israeli government, it could have led to changes that perhaps might have averted the intifada, as it was available long before the outbreak of the intifada. ed.

By SARA ROY

Recent events in the Persian Gulf have riven attention away from Israel and the territories it occupies. Palestinians' support for Iraq has weakened their cause in the eyes of the West, which is accustomed to seeing events in black and white terms only. Although Palestinian support of Saddam Hussein is as foolish as it is wrong, it must be understood as an expression of the acute frustration, despair and vulnerability created not only by the lack of progress on the political level, but by the rapid deterioration of conditions on the economic and human level.

Perhaps the most critical issue now emerging from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the issue of protection. The outbreak of violence on the Temple Mount, and the violence in the days following it (300-400 people were injured in Gaza alone in the week following the incident), was termed the worst since the beginning of the Palestinian uprising three years ago. As someone who lived and

worked in Gaza for 10 months during the first two years of the intifada, and who has just returned from another, one-month, stay, I can state that the violence differs only in degree and not in substance.

The Israeli government maintains that violence is caused by Palestinian demonstrators hurling stones at soldiers. Indeed, it is. And stones can kill. But violence is also caused by Israeli soldiers who not only respond with bullets, but who, totally unprovoked, routinely shoot at unarmed civilians, mostly young boys and men, for such offenses as wearing a mask, walking in groups, laughing, challenging a soldier's orders and, as is most often the case, simply being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

I have seen soldiers shoot into crowds of children who were doing nothing more than taunting them. I have seen soldiers shoot into a private home because people were singing nationalist songs. I have seen a young woman, eight-months pregnant, beaten by four Israeli soldiers for flashing a V-sign at them. I have stayed with families inside refugee camps whose homes the army attempted to break into night after night. Yet, the government of Israel maintains that their security forces are adhering to strict regulations determined by the Minister of Defense.

Violence is now the way of life inside the territories, especially inside the more impoverished Gaza Strip. Palestinians are desperate. They are terrorized by the army on a daily basis and despair of protection. They have absolutely no effective recourse against the lawlessness and illegality that characterize their lives. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar stated in his recent report to the United Nations Security Council,

"Palestinians have expressed a profound feeling of vulnera-

bility at all times, whether in the workplace, at school, in places of worship or simply walking down the street. This fear was compounded by their view that there was no recourse to any authority, other than the security forces who were so often responsible for the measures inflicted upon them.

They have stated that they feel unsafe even inside their homes, which were frequently subjected to midnight searches, and during which entire households, including children, were beaten. It was said that arrests during such operations were common. A wide range of collective punishments had, they said, become routine during the past three years, such as curfews, the demolition of homes, administrative detention and the uprooting of trees."

There is no way to describe accurately the pervasive and palpable sense of fear and vulnerability among Palestinians but I am going to try to by recounting an experience I had while living with a family inside one of Gaza's refugee camps. [This section is drawn from a manuscript on Gaza that is currently under preparation]

It was close to midnight and a teenage friend of mine, Salima, and I were watching television in the bedroom that we shared together. Everyone else in the household was asleep. The entire house was completely dark except for a small light just above our TV. Lights are turned off early in the evening inside camp homes, as a precautionary measure. Lighted homes often attract the attention of the soldiers.

Beneath the sound of the television, Salima and I began to hear the growling of a neighbor's dog. Salima jumped up immediately and turned off the sound. She stood very still, straining to hear what was making the dog growl. The growling slowly subsided and finally disappeared. I insisted it was nothing, but Salima wasn't at all convinced. She placed her ear against the bedroom door and listened intently.

Suddenly, the dog began barking uncontrollably. Salima fell backwards from fright. Terrified, she turned to me and whispered, "Jhesh? Jhesh?" (soldiers, soldiers) I got up instantly, grabbed my camera, tape recorder, and cassettes and looked frantically for a place to hide them. I scattered them all over the room and hid them in places I've now forgotten. Salima locked the door to our bedroom and turned the television off.

Almost instantly, we could hear footsteps running up and down the narrow alleyway next to our bedroom wall. By this time, the dog's barking had become violent. Within moments of hearing the soldiers outside our window, Salima began quaking with fear. Her body was shaking so violently, she couldn't move from where she was stand-

ing. I put my arm around her and walked her slowly to a corner beneath the bedroom window, where we both crouched down holding each other.

The soldiers then began to pound on the front door to our house, screaming repeatedly in Arabic, "Open the door, you bastards, open the door." The dog went crazy. It seemed that the more he barked, the louder they pounded. Neither relented and together, the sounds of the dog and the soldiers were terrifying and grotesque. Salima buried her face in my chest and began sobbing. I kept telling her they would go away but she was beyond consolation. I was very scared and felt myself unable to move.

The pounding stopped after about ten minutes. The soldiers gave up on us — no one inside the house dared respond — and could be heard doing the same to homes not far from ours. Finally, after some time, the soldiers disappeared completely, the dog stopped barking, and a restless kind of silence returned to the alleyway. Salima took a long time to calm down, waiting fearfully for the soldiers to return. They didn't. Throughout all of this, we never once let go of each other.

At one point, just before she fell into sleep, Salima turned to me and said, "I love you, Sara. Thank you for being my friend." I can't remember when, but we both managed to finally fall asleep, never once letting go of each other's hands...

Palestinians in the occupied territories need immediate protection. Before elections and peace talks can actually take place, people in the Gaza Strip and West Bank must first be allowed to live without the constant threat of physical and personal abuse. Some Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza have articulated the urgent need for a plan that would compel the Israeli army to withdraw from the territories and be replaced by an international peacekeeping force. This step is conceived as an interim one, but one that would not only allow people to reconstruct their lives and regain some sense of normalcy, but one that could also serve as a testing period between Palestinians and Israelis. The need for protection is both a moral and political imperative. The future outcome of the conflict will, in no small part, rest upon whether it is provided or not.

Dr. Sara Roy is a Visiting Scholar at the Center for International Studies at MIT. She is currently preparing a book on economic conditions in the Gaza Strip based on research conducted over a period of 10 months between 1988-89. She has been working in the region since 1985. Recently, Dr. Roy testified before Congress on the subject of this article. She returned to Israel, the Gaza Strip and West Bank in September to conduct additional research.

Next prime minister?

By RABBI SAMUEL SILVER

A prominent English politician leader has stirred controversy among British Jew. Gerald Kaufman is the head of the foreign affairs



Forward writers, Rabbi David Hollander and Rabbi Aaron Shurin take potshots at Jews whom they call "liberals," who want to negotiate with the Palestinians. Hollander even hints sympathy with the Kahane idea of making Israel "Arabrein," to use his language.

Israel hero

section of the Labor Party, which is headed by Neil Kinnock. A native of Leeds, he served in the subcabinet of onetime British prime minister Harold Wilson. An ardent devotee of Israel, he has visited the Jewish state twice and written two books in praise of her. But what troubles Dr. S. Levenberg, who is himself a Labor Zionist and the Forward's correspondent in England is that Kaufman feels that Zionists should be in favor of a Palestinian state. Because of his feelings, Kaufman has met with Arafat and has visited Syria, Tunisia, Iraq and Jordan.

He is anxious to be a bridge between his fellow Jews and the Palestinians and in the face of the objections to "linkage," he hopes that the defeat of Saddam will lead to a conference on the future of the West Bank and Gaza. If Labor should win the next English election, Kaufman will probably become the Foreign Minister of England. Oddly, Kinnock is not as favorably inclined as is his Jewish colleague to deals with the Palestinians.

In the same Forward issue in which the Levenberg piece appears, two other

The Forward opines that few of its readers will be familiar with the name Alfred Frauenknecht who died recently. But a lot of Israelis will remember him. Twenty two years ago he clandestinely transmitted to Israel the blueprints which enabled her to make a copy of the French plane, the Mirage. France at that time refused to share that data, but Frauenknecht, a Christian Swiss, disclosed the info to Israel. He did it as a way of atoning for the fact that during the Nazi period the Swiss sent back to Germany and to death camps Jews who had entered the land. For his act the Swiss airplane engineer was sentenced to 20 years in prison, but the sentence was reduced to four and a half years in the wake of international protests. The Israeli government provided his wife with means to live during his incarceration. The Forward writer records that some years ago Frauenknecht visited Israel and was hailed by many admirers. The transmitted data was used to fashion the Israel plane, the Kafir.

Rabbi Sam Silver can be reached at Temple Sinai, 2475 W. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach, FL.

German firms pay for Scud damage

LOS ANGELES — The possibility that German companies who were instrumental in extending the range of Iraqi Scud missiles so that they were able to inflict injuries and damage on the Tel Aviv suburb of Ramat Gan might be sued could emerge from a meeting of Rabbi Abraham Cooper of the Wiesenthal Center and officials of the Israeli suburb. The associate dean of the Center said that "such legal action would be enormous March 6, 1991 Page NAT 10

mously complicated, but there are some businessmen in Germany and elsewhere who simply won't change unless we raise the ante on them." He referred to the legal precedent established when the British military government in Germany won death sentence convictions against two civilians who played major roles in the production of Zyklon B poison gas used in the gas chambers of the extermination camps.

All in the family for the rabbi

By RABBI MAURICE DAVIS

I, know. I know. I have this penchant for being autobiographical. Friends tell me that they keep up with the events of my lie by



reading this column.

And that is not always meant to be a compliment.

Even so, let me tell you about a wedding held recently here in Palm Coast. The bride was a young lady named Kay Cardwell. The groom was the Rabbi of Temple Sinai of Forest Hills, New York. I co-affiliated at the ceremony together with the Rabbi of Temple Beth Shalom of Vero Beach, FL.

Sound exciting? Maybe this will help. The Rabbi of Temple Beth Shalom is my son, Jay R. Davis. And the Rabbi of Temple Sinai is my son Michael Davis.

Jay R. and I married Michael and Kay. Among the participants, my grandson, Ronin, was the junior Usher, and my granddaughter Talia was the Junior Bridesmaid.

Now put yourself in my place for the moment. One son and I were marrying my other son, while my two grandchildren looked on!

We were not alone, of course. Rabbi Jeff Kahn of Temple Beth El in Rockford, Illinois was best man. And Rabbi Shoshama Wiener, Dean of the Academy for Jewish Religion, was there. And Rabbi Jerome Davidson of Temple Beth El in Great Neck, NY was there.

And so were another hundred or so. (People, not rabbis!) Colonel Shavitt, and his wife Shira, and their granddaughter, Noam, were there. They had flown in from Israel for the occasion.

The rest had come from New York, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Illinois, Indiana and from various parts of Florida.

I figured it up. Our guests had travelled 250,000 miles to come to the wedding. That is roughly the distance to the moon!

The Saturday night wedding began with havdallah, and it was held in a pavilion

out over the Intra Coastal Waterway. The weather was absolutely stunning for the entire weekend of activities.

But none of that was that crucial.

What was crucial was that I could stand with my colleague, my son, Jay R, and together we could marry our colleague, my son, Michael, and I had to muster every ounce of self control to get through the ceremony without breaking down.

I almost made it.

You often hear the phrase, "There wasn't a dry eye in the place." But that

rarely applies to the rabbi. Or the two rabbis!

But this time it did. My mind was a jumble of a million moments. Pictures of the past, not unusual for a rabbi marrying his son.

But for a Rabbi marrying his son, a rabbi, and sharing the honor with his son, a rabbi... That, I submit is not your everyday kind of event.

Not even close!

So maybe, this one time, waxing autobiographical can be justified.

Rabbi Maurice Davis can be reached at 20 Narragansett Ave., Apt. 1-C, Narragansett, RI 02882

YAACOV'S WORLD

Credit the source — I

By YAACOV LURIA

Some time ago, in a column the editor called "Agree with Me," I confessed to one of my many character weaknesses — an



abhorrence of opinions that contradict mine. I ended the piece with an anecdote about a disagreement between a rabbi and a congregant in Oregon that climaxed with the rabbi taking a shot at the congregant and missing.

In writing the column I committed a cardinal offense: I didn't give credit to the reader from Eugene, OR who mentioned the incident in a letter she wrote me. She was justifiably unhappy about it. Of course, I apologize.

Shipley

Continued from page 7
the rest of the world. Dignity, manhood and respect is something that is earned every day. It is earned today in the council of nations. It is earned with respect for your fellow man and for fellow nations. It is not earned by standing on a roof and cheering the possibility of the annihilation of a people.

Greatness of a nation and

gized to her and promised myself to be more careful in the future.

The Talmud tells us that those who give credit to the sources of their bright sayings will enter the World to come. That is why there is no need for anyone to make reservations for a place in Gan Eden. So few famous people qualify for admission. I am thinking not only of the likes of Senator Joseph Biden and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., but of William Shakespeare himself. All of Shakespeare's plots were borrowed, but what gold he made of base metal! Perhaps an exception can be made for him.

The difference between scholarship and plagiarism is the use of quotation marks and footnotes. At this late date in the history of the world, it's unlikely that anyone will come up with an idea or insight that didn't begin in someone's head a long time ago.

To paraphrase Kohelet: "All that is was."

a peoplehood is to be achieved by learning how to live in the global village. By eschewing any hopes of empire. Not by following yet another leader with feet of clay on a bloody road back to the past. How many times must we pay for them to learn the lesson?

Jim Shipley can be reached at 283 W. Lake Faith Dr., Maitland, FL 32751

ISRAEL: AS I SEE IT

Russians in Israel create our future

By SAMSON KRUPNICK

Despite the tension in the Middle East area and its concomitant depressing influence worldwide, the feared decline in aliya from



the Soviet Union happily has not materialized. In fact, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer upon his recent return from there was amazed at the increased interest in aliya. He was swamped with urgent requests to use his influence to expedite their departure for Israel.

This is a further indication of our lack of knowledge or full appreciation of a Jewish population isolated for over three generations from the world Jewish community. We had many fears about Russian Jews, having a lack of basic knowledge about Judaism and Zionism, hence using Israel as a temporary transit station on their way to the United States, Canada or other western countries.

To a large extent, this is precisely what happened with the aliya in the past decade, with the sad experience that as much as 90% opted for the United States without even thinking of giving Israel a chance. All this was prior to the major revolution and total collapse of the Communist-Socialist empire, their economies and political structures and the resultant eruption of rabid anti-Semitism, dormant for all these years but possibly ready for immediate violent expression.

Even the most ardent Jewish-Russian patriot concludes unequivocally that there is no future for Jews in the Soviet Union. The opening wide of the iron curtain led to a surge of Jews worldwide to come to the aid of their brothers in the Soviet, to help them emigrate and to help those who remained to establish an informed and well-organized Jewish community. The Jewish Agency, Habad and many other Jewish organizations sent well-qualified individuals to teach and to direct educa-

tional activities in the larger Jewish centers of the Soviet Union. Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz was invited by the Soviet Union to establish a yeshiva — and a Judaic Studies Center. The objective was twofold: 1) To educate a nucleus of knowledgeable students to guide the various Jewish communities in religious matters, and 2) to improve the level of general Jewish learning and commitment. The original objective of refurbishing the existing Jewish communities spiritually has become quite limited in scope, while the second objective finds many more Jews wishing to learn more about

and punishment in order to learn and then to teach Judaism. As to Israel, their knowledge is totally warped, influenced by many years' negative and derogatory propaganda.

Dealing squarely with this problem is the Soviet Jewry Zionist Forum under the very capable direction of Natan Sharansky. It has prepared much material, including a 50-minute film on Israel designed to counteract the negative Soviet propaganda ingrained in the minds of most Soviet Jews. "They are very sensitive to propaganda; if you show them good, they will believe that it is bad. It is

Even the most ardent Jewish-Russian patriot concludes unequivocally that there is no future for Jews in the Soviet Union. The opening wide of the iron curtain led to a surge of Jews worldwide to come to the aid of their brothers in the Soviet, to help them to emigrate and to help those who remained to establish an informed and well-organized Jewish community.

Israel and about Judaism in preparation for aliya to Israel.

The program of preparing qualified personnel to bolster and strengthen a Jewish community on a long-term continuing basis is no longer realistic, as all of Soviet organizations are adjusting their objectives accordingly, emphasizing crash courses, seminars, and social-religious gatherings in order to indoctrinate Soviet olim with a greater understanding of the fundamentals of Judaism, Zionism, Israel — history, geography, tradition, democracy, etc.

The virtually unanimous experience of all those working now in the field is their utter amazement at the complete lack of knowledge and understanding of even the tiniest concept of Judaism or Israel. Seventy years of harsh control of the Jewish mind, depriving it of any Judaic education, has accomplished its purpose. Soviet Jews don't have the least concept of Judaism (with the exception of some refuseniks who risked prison

hard to convince them that life here can be good," notes Sharansky. Nevertheless he concludes, "There is a feeling of being at home here (in Israel)... it is the only place in the world where you can build a country with your own hands. You can create whatever you want, see the results of your own labor and really become the creator of your own future."

Thus far the absorption of

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POSTMARK ISRAEL

Peace in the Middle East

The situation in the Persian Gulf, and the absorption of the flood of Soviet immigrants, under control, centers attention once again on the Knesset, now well into the second half of its existence. Local politicians are already beginning to play games which might lead to their political advantage in the democratic struggle which will end at the ballot box. Who will lead the nation in the next round, and what will the program be?

One thing is almost certain. The jockeying going on in the Labor Party between Peres and Rabin, on the one hand, and the maneuvering by the younger generation to replace both with new faces, will have little influence on the destiny of the country. There is hardly a political commentator in Israel who reads the polls and gauges the obvious trend of public opinion, who gives Labor even the slightest chance of coming to power in the next elections.

The ground swell is unmistakably to the right. This obviously strengthens the prospects of the Likud, but it bids well for the parties to the right of it as well — Tehiya led by Yuval Ne'eman and Geula Cohen, and Moledet headed by Rechavam Ze'evi, popularly nicknamed Gandhi, though the name has no association with peaceful resistance.

Within Likud the battle for succession is shaping up. Yitzhak Shamir will be 77 at the time of the next election, and though he would like to choose his successor, the chances are that the decision will be taken out of his hands. He favors Moshe Arens, but the other two candidates are Arik Sharon and David Levy. The decision may well be made by the younger generation of able political leaders who have emerged in recent years. Yet they too are split along ideological grounds.

On the one hand are men like Michael Eytan, Zachi Hanegbi and Eliyahu Ben-Elissar who believe that the aggressive hostility on the part of the Arabs has made all prospects of co-existence with them hopeless. In their view what is required is a heavy hand to make life so miserable for the Arabs that they will leave of their own volition, or

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SOCIAL CALENDAR

By Jean Herschaft

Sad news hit that six ORT schools in the Tel Aviv area had been damaged by Scud missiles and are undergoing rush repairs by ORT. Israel's own student body and staff in Operation Broken Glass was reported by Murray Koppelman, President of American ORT at the recent annual four day conference in New York at the Grand Hyatt, which we attended.

A pre-dinner gala for fund-raising at the Helmsley Palace which had comedian Alan King put the guests at ease with humor was perhaps a premonition of things to befall Israel and the ORT schools as it was the first night that Iraq fired scud missiles at the Jewish state. The news put a certain damper on frivolity but made the card-calling task for King "a breeze" as guests described it, to me.

Recent young Soviet emigres, all students at the ORT Bramson School in Queens, N.Y., were studded, singularly, at each table for the banquet session. It gave ORT America delegates a real chance to know them by table conversation. It was an exhilarating experience for all.

Mrs. Olga Baloroff, a twentish beautiful young woman who hailed from Leningrad graced our table. Dressed in a red rayon suit she appeared more a model than a high school teacher of mathematics that she had been in her home town. At Bramson ORT "I study computers," she shyly said. Married with a three-year-old son, her husband headed another table across the large ballroom. "He is an engineer upgrading his knowledge at Bramson ORT," was the way he was identified by David Hermelin, of Detroit, and every Soviet student seated at each table.

The Right Honorable Lord Young of Graffham, former British Cabinet Minister who is the newly-elected President of the World ORT Union and who looks the way one conjures up British royalty — tall, distinguished, with a shock of graying wavy hair and a charming, clipped British accent.

Lord Young was delighted to report that in the Soviet Union where ORT set up its first technical school more than 100 years ago, "a pilot program has been established at a major technical training institute in Moscow. If the program is a success," he promised, "the ORT system will soon be integrated into 1,000 Soviet schools." He gave a global profile on the ORT school network which is expanding in the U.S., Latin America and Eastern Europe for high tech training within a Jewish framework. Also representing ORT on the international scene was Joseph Harmetz, Director-General, World Union ORT.

Israel Goralnik, Director-General of ORT Israel, although on the program was not there. A tall, handsome young man, Nir Goralnik ascending the podium explained why. "My father wanted to be with his students at this time of crisis. He asked me to take his place here."

Young Goralnik had ticked off the many ORT graduates who were now repairing Israel defense weapons as well as serving in the reserves, even as the new emigres, 1500 from the Soviet, were now students there as well as Ethiopian Jews.

Murray Koppelman, the new president of American ORT, who collects clocks as a hobby, told that banquet session "We are the umbrella organization for all ORT schools that provide vocational/technical education to more than 200,000 students in 35 lands, 96,000 in Israel alone. And now our programs train thousands of Soviet Jews in the U.S. and Israel."

ORT vice-president Donald H. Klein accompanied Koppelman to Israel where both attended the World ORT Union Executive meeting in Jerusalem. However, the Scud attacks on Israel's civilian cities which hit ORT facilities turned their visit into one of assessment and plans for restoration.

Missed days to be made up

JERUSALEM — Israeli school children are now confronted with the problem of catching up on the lessons they missed while schools were closed. Days have been

sliced from vacations at the time of the various holidays and the summer break will be trimmed by 23 days. Also there is the possibility that

Continued on next page

JEW BY CHOICE

The month of the fang

By MARY HOFMANN

I hate to sew. Not that it's a regular occurrence, mind you. Like a cat, I have never been entirely domesticated. I do those domestic



things necessary to sustain life, but sewing is an emergency procedure. Either it fits or we don't buy it. If I'd lived 200 years ago, I'd have had to walk around in a burlap bag.

I realize, of course, why I hate cleaning toilets. I know why I hate scrubbing floors. I have only recently realized why it is that I hate to sew. While neither messy nor dirty, sewing is a very dangerous activity.

It is my policy to do only buttons and hems. Even someone with small muscle coordination as pitiful as mine can do a button. And, unfortunately, hems are a fact of life in a family whose tallest member is 5'6". I resigned myself years ago to the seasonal reality of hems. But I didn't resign myself with good grace.

I love jogging suits. In them I jog from sink to computer to couch — and occasionally bed. Normally I only buy jogging suits with ribbed cuffs because — you guessed it — they don't have to be shortened for little round people like me. Oh, but there was a lightweight maroon knit suit that beckoned irresistibly and — after a moment of self-debate — I decided it was worth the miserable job of hemming. The devil apparently assumes many forms. This time it was maroon.

I jogged home in my car, then pulled out and dusted the sewing box. Once I completed the excruciating measuring and pinning foreplay, I sat peacefully in front of the television and prepared to sew. After several moments of spirited swearing I accomplished the thread-through-the-needle trick. The I whipped confidently around the first cuff, tied a fine knot, raised the thread to my teeth, and bit.

I pulled. It was a tough little devil. So I yanked

harder, and snap! The thread broke, but it did not go willingly or alone. There was an almost imperceptible crunching sensation that accompanied the snap. I stopped all motion, concentrating hard on willing my front tooth not to be broken.

Lips and eyes closed, I gingerly sent my tongue on a reconnaissance mission. The report wasn't good. Outside third of right front tooth sheared off vertically, like a hunk of slate. No pain, just disfigurement. I dragged out the mirror. It was not a pretty sight.

My dentist, of course, was out of town for the event. I

ably. "Just bite down on this blue carbon paper so I can see where..."

I bit.

The plastic cap flew across the room and bounced off the wall. "Nice work," I commented dryly.

"Fragile little buggers," he went on, preparing for round two. After a more acceptable fitting, he sent me on my way.

"I'll call you when I hear from the insurance folks. Meanwhile, be very careful what you bite. And, whatever you do, don't sew!" I left the office, trying to hold onto a bit of dignity, my dentist having a fit of

I pulled. It was a tough little devil. So I yanked harder, and snap! The thread broke, but it did not go willingly or alone. There was an almost imperceptible crunching sensation that accompanied the snap. I stopped all motion, concentrating hard on willing my front tooth not to be broken.

was tight-lipped for two days until I ran him to ground. A good sport, he agreed to come in just for me. "Say cheese!" he laughed when he unlocked the door, and a grin of pure joy spread across his face as he gazed at my southern Appalachian look.

"I can pop a temporary plastic thing onto this so you can be seen in public until we can get you in for a crown prep," he went on cheerfully. "In fact, the other front tooth is pretty dismal as well. Let's see if your insurance will pop (hee-hee!) for both of them. It takes them a few weeks to respond, but they'll probably approve 50 percent."

"Just make me socially acceptable — even temporarily," I snarled.

After much mixing and fitting and exposure to a blue light, he pronounced me temporarily presentable.

"I can't close my mouth," I snarled again. "You need to file it down."

"Sure," he nodded ami-

giggles in the back room. "Chicken soup!" he roared, "Just chew on chicken soup!"

I made it through two whole days. I was in exactly the same spot, watching Anne of Green Gables (a wholesome pursuit if there ever was one), doing my Hebrew homework like a good little girl. I was also sucking a cinnamon wafer, which I was determined not to bite. It was maroon. I don't want to tell you what happened next.

But not as badly as I don't want to tell my dentist, the comedian. Instead, for the next few weeks, I shall sally forth with pride, ignoring my disfigurement and ignoring those who won't ignore it with me.

"Broken tooth?" I'll say. "What broken tooth? Oh, you mean my fang? You've never noticed my fang?"

And I shall pray that the dentist calls soon!

Mary Hofmann can be reached at P.O. Box 723, Merced, CA 95341

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Mother battle is father battle

By ARLENE G. PECK

"The Iraq people and army led by the unique leader, Saddam Hussein will continue to wage the mother of all battles to the



end. The disbelievers, the imperialist, Zionist and colonialists have been united in one front led by the United States. So the front of Islam, of faith, of revolutionary struggle is an opposite front."

Sound familiar? That's the garbage that's been broadcast every day on Baghdad radio. How do you rationalize with such barbaric and primitive minds? You don't. All they understand is strength. And, Israel has been restricted in showing theirs in their efforts to keep the coalition happy.

The tiny 450-kilometre-long country is vulnerable to its enemies because of its friendship with the United States. I wonder how long the world will remember this after the war is over? In fact, how will the Israelis be affected? Helplessness is the most fearful sensation that people can feel. It's ironic how just a few months ago when I was reporting from Israel on radio and television that Jerusalem was being avoided because of stabbings of Jews by Arabs. Now, Jerusalem is considered a safe city. It is believed that Saddam Hussein would not dare risk hitting Al-Aqsa Mosque or Islam's third holiest site, Dome of the Rock.

I travel a lot. And, as a result I'm able to hear the viewpoints of people from all over. I find myself feeling anger and contempt for people because their views are so different from mine. And always, it's about Israel. Recently, I stormed away from a black man from New Jersey, a poetry professor from Yale and a French man who were sitting at my table at the ski resort, Gray Rock in Canada. All were expounding on the need for an International Peace conference to throw Israel to the wolves. Of course, none of them had ever traveled

to that part of the world nor were aware of the fact that the entire country of Israel was only one-seventh the size of Georgia.

I suppose I'm just a very basic person. For instance, war to me is when the good guys are trying to beat back the bad guys. War is whatever it takes to bring it to a head. When the United States and its allies hit military targets which were being shared with civilians, the press played it as though we had done a terrible thing. Well folks, that's what war is.

The Israelis have long known and tried to explain it to the rest of the world that the Arabs are masters

the news. War is ugly. Correspondents should also have a responsibility to support their country. The press has misled the public in the past, such as in Watergate, Vietnam, the Iran Contras. Yet, they must never forget that the appropriate conduct of a reporter is to be responsible, especially during war time.

In the early days of the war I found it terrific that CNN was so thorough in its reporting. Then, as the days passed I began to feel that they were revealing too much to the enemy. Good judgment is something that a reporter must use and I didn't see much of it reflected in the interviews out of

The Iraqi dictator has made the war an issue of the rich vs. poor, the Palestinians and the illegitimacy of regional governments. For the United States to evolve after the war as a leader it will have to make some pressing changes. The showdowns will have to be in the conference room alongside the battlefield. The oil rich sheiks will have to be convinced to use their billions in radically changed ways. Instead of supporting the terrorist PLO and amassing more war machines, they should instead be pressed to broaden the base of their political support and to spread the wealth. Their billions could be used instead for modernization, educational and social justice in the Arab world.

of using their own people as human shields. When I was in Beirut in June of 1982 it was common to see military installations which had been centered in the middle of civilian buildings such as orphanages and hospitals. Israel has always known of this despicable practice but the world would rather believe the Arab reports of civilian deaths — situation which was exacerbated by the press.

The press has got to take a long look at itself. The appropriate role of the press is to report, but not to form

the Middle East. Especially from CNN and Peter Arnett's propaganda coming out of Baghdad. They revealed too much to the enemy and I believe worked to the detriment of the United States. The press should be a watchdog, but this war is not a political or sporting event. And, sometimes the watchdog attitude is carried to extremes, since they are not elected officials.

Listen, I'm a columnist and whether you like or agree with what I say, I am

Continued on next page



A CONVERT'S VOICE

By Samantha Lindblad

Guiding a seeker

Brenda had told me she wanted to be a Jew and during our conversation I told her, "You know, it's not easy to be a Jew."

"I know," she said. "I know about the Holocaust and anti-Semitism and all."

"It's not just the prospect of another Holocaust or the presence of anti-Semitism that makes it hard to be a Jew," I said. "Although those things are certainly part of it, it also has to do with the fact that being Jewish is something that is part of every moment of every day of your life. It's not just exchanging one set of beliefs for another or celebrating a different set of holidays, but has to do with every aspect of your life from the spiritual right down to the everyday mundane. It's hard to explain, but becoming a Jew is not just a matter of changing your religious beliefs, but the way you think, how you view and relate to the world."

She nodded, though I knew she did not understand fully what I was telling her because no one can in the beginning.

"It also takes a lot of time," I said. "Not only because there's so much to learn, but because Judaism has no set dogma like Christianity. You won't simply be given a 'catechism' that says 'Do Jews believe...?' Yes/No' end of answer. If you ask me a question I'll always begin my answer with 'This is what I believe' because other Jews may believe differently. As Jews we can question. In fact, it's our duty to question, study, learn, and make up our own minds."

"That's what I want to do," she said. "I don't want to be told I have to believe this, I want to know and decide on my own."

"In order to become a Jew you'll have to study with a rabbi," I said. "So I'm going to give you the phone number of Rabbi Cohn in San Bernardino in case you want to make an appointment with him. We have an 'Introduction to Judaism' class at the temple, which he may want you to attend, but he'll also require personal meetings with you and a minimum of three years of study before conversion."

She didn't blink an eye at the time period but said, "I didn't figure it would be easy, that it would take a lot of time and I'm willing to do that."

"Rabbi Cohn's a very fine and intelligent man and he'll never push you. Whether you decide to continue studying will always be up to you. At the first meeting he'll probably just talk to you, maybe ask you a few questions, and probably end up giving you a book to read."

She nodded and smiled.

"In the interim," I said, handing her Harry Kemelman's book "Conversations with Rabbi Small." "I think this is one of the best books ever written in providing some basic insights into Judaism. While you have to keep in mind that any book often tends to reflect the belief of the author, I think this book is excellent as a beginning study."

Her face lit up as I handed her the book, and I could sense her excitement. I told her she was welcome to borrow any book I have, that I'd help her any way I could, answer any questions she might have at any time, and if I didn't know the answer we'd look it up together.

"And even if you decide not to convert," I said, "I think it's wonderful that you want to study Judaism. And," I said, giving her a hug, "I'm really excited that you want to learn about it."

Damon returned the book a few days later while Brenda was working. He said he'd never seen her read a book so fast and that she'd made an appointment to meet with Rabbi Cohn the following week.

She came to see me again after the meeting, which I'll tell you about in my next column.

Missed days

Continued from prev. page

the school day will be lengthened.

During the missile attacks, high school students from Tel Aviv and Haifa

were brought to this city for three days as part of the program to relieve the tension and stress to which they were subjected.

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Gertel

Continued from page 5
that all the real benefits from the coming of the messiah are left (by the Christians) for the second coming." Of the messiah the rabbi adds: "The Messiah will not save man. Man must save himself. The Messiah does not save the world. The world must save itself by turning to the light of God's teaching. Then the Messiah will come."

Particularly fascinating is the rabbi's observation regarding how Christians, in choosing to interpret the "Suffering Servant" of Isaiah 53 as referring to their messiah instead of to the Jewish People (the original intent of the Prophet), created a double standard in regarding suffering as a virtue for Jesus but as a condemnation of the Jews: "You Christians talk to your suffering messiah whose failure means his divinity and then say that our suffering means that we are accursed."

Most memorable of all, however, in all this delicious dialogue, is the suggestion that Jews emerged as more "civilized" than their persecutors who condemned them on religious, social and political grounds. When asked by the blood-thirsty queen whether Kabbalah is black magic or whether the blood libel is true, Pablo Christiani himself responded in the negative, adding: "Jews are not an uncivilized people. They're overcivilized. They think themselves too clever to need salvation."

The queen says that she'd like to see the rabbi broken on the wheel not so much for the obstinacy which she once felt kept the Jews from accepting Christ, but for a reason more irksome because "the truth is worse: Jews look upon us as

unenlightened heretics and idolaters." (Actually many Jewish authorities, even in that period, did not consider Christianity to be "idolatry," but as a less pure form of monotheism, legitimate for Gentiles but not for Jews.) This line of discussion reaches its logical conclusion — and a very logical one at that, given the course of events in the play (especially a nasty plot against the rabbi by the queen and the apostate Jew) and in history — when the rabbi advises the king: "Do not become too much of a Christian. Keep some of the pagan in you."

The Rabbi observes that it is the pagan in the king rather than the Christian in him which keeps the disputation fair. There is even an interesting defense of the Jewish view of sexuality on the part of the rabbi as he attempts to assuage the king's sense of guilt.

The dialogue keeps the play fresh and interesting, but the dialogue does have its flaws. One of the statements of the rabbi is ambiguous as to which is considered the first of the Ten Commandments in Judaism. Also, when the rabbi lectures the king on sexuality, one almost gets the impression that he invokes the accounts of King David to justify the king's own idolatry. Yet monogamous marriage would, by then, have been the ideal of Judaism both for Jews and for Gentiles.

In one line the rabbi tells the king that Gentiles resent the Jews for threatening their "lifestyles." The word "lifestyles" seems much too trendy to put in the mouth of a medieval rabbi. These flaws are mild, however given the richness of the dialogue and of the theological and historical in-

sights given in this play and in this particular film production of it. We learn, for example, that the exiles of these Church-instigated disputations revived Jewish settlement in the land of Israel — an interesting tidbit of Zionist history.

The Disputation is a worthwhile play, both to the general viewer in search of good dialogue, and to Jewish and Christian or interfaith discussion groups. The Arts and Entertainment Network production also offers fine music by Michael Nyman. Hyam Maccoby, a noted British scholar of Jewish an early Christian history, has written a thoughtful and witty script. Yet one wonder whether his uniquely sympathetic king somehow mitigates the true horror of the disputations, which has yet to be depicted, and whether Maccoby has given over too much of the defense of Jews to offhand remarks of apostates and bloodthirsty queens who were actually the least able to appreciate the "civilized" qualities of Jews.

Fleishman

Continued from page 7
misunderstood, but entire governments and nations can go down the drain for lack of support for their policy.

Israel has public relations all right! The question is basically whether it is good or bad public relations, not do we have it!

Alfred Fleishman can be reached at PO Box 12806, St. Louis MO 63141



Postmark Israel

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be pushed out. In this they would be supported by other parties further to the right.

And, on the other hand are men like Dan Meridor, Benny Begin, Ronni Milo and Ehud Olmert who cling to the hope of co-existence. They do believe in Israeli sovereignty over the whole country west of the Jordan, and think that there are still grounds for reaching an understanding with the Arabs.

The group that gains the upper hand in the Likud may well determine the policies of Israel a few years hence. — C.A.

Backalenick

Continued from page 5

dimensional characters to its fragmented scenes, the play never lives up to its promise. Amazingly, we never become engaged in these people's lives nor care about their problems. Our own emotional responses are as flat as their antics.

What has happened? Where is Sobol's usually powerful voice? Perhaps, as some critics suggested earlier with "Ghetto," the subject is too overwhelming to be translated into artistic expression — the Holocaust is trivialized by placing it on stage. (But others, including this reviewer, saw "Ghetto" as deeply moving. It was highly lauded in London, though it was hurried off the Broadway stage.)

Other reasons for the failure of this production might be external. The show had just gone into rehearsal at the outbreak of war, and playwright Sobol promptly left for home. Presumably Sobol had no opportunity to see the play on its feet, nor to work with cast and director on revisions. Secondly,

the play was written in Hebrew, and may have lost something in Ron Jenkins' translation.

Thirdly, director Hall rarely succeeds in injecting the production with life. Granted there are individually moving scenes, such as a nude bathing scene with two young lovers, but total results are as dim and depressing as the lighting and stage set. And moving back and forth in time, from Vilna to Jerusalem and back, adds confusion rather than perspective. Sobol has no apparent thematic reason for these two time periods, except to be au courant. This he does by tossing in lines about Iraq and Scud attacks, and by equipping the hospital rooms with modern paraphernalia.

In all, "Underground" is not the Second Coming, as we had anticipated, but a production in deep trouble. It plays at Yale Rep until March 16.

Irene Backalenick can be reached at 373 Greens Farms Rd., Westport, CT 06880

Peck

Continued from prev. page
still giving you my opinion. But, the reporters that are giving out their commentaries are something else. For too long I watched biased reports against Israel coming out of the Middle East. Now, because Israel is the victim everybody likes the underdog... Little David fighting the Arab Goliath.

The Iraqi dictator has made the war an issue of the rich vs. poor, the Palestinians and the illegitimacy of regional governments. For the United States to evolve after the war as a leader it will have to make some pressing changes. The show-downs will have to be in the conference room alongside the battlefield. The oil rich sheiks will have to be convinced to use their billions in radically changed ways. Instead of supporting the terrorist PLO and amassing

more war machines, they should instead be pressed to broaden the base of their political support and to spread the wealth. Their billions could be used instead for modernization, educational and social justice in the Arab world. Instead of spending it on their obscene and opulent lifestyles. Their masses are illiterate and that breeds unrest.

The Arab hatred toward Israel is centuries old and I believe caused in large part because they feel so inferior to Israel. It makes them crazy that they have not been able to compete with Israel on the political, economic, scientific or educational level. Every achievement of Israel reinforces these feelings.

Arlene Peck may be reached at 2870 Pharr Court South, #107, Atlanta, GA 30305.

Krupnick

Continued from page 11
new Soviet olim has been fantastic, much better than even the greatest optimist here had dared to hope.

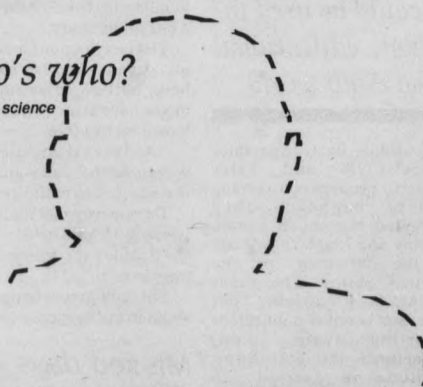
May it so continue in the days and years to come.

Samson Krupnick may be reached at 22 Pinsker, Jerusalem 92228, Israel

MYSTERY PERSON

Do you know who's who?

The Mystery Person has taught political science at an Ivy League school.



The winner of the Post and Opinion Mystery Person will receive a two-month extension of their subscription. Responses must be made by mail. All correct guesses will be acceptable even though they arrive late from long distances.

LETTERS

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS — *The Post and Opinion encourages readers to send letters. All letters to the editor should be addressed to The Jewish Post and Opinion, P.O. Box 449097, Indianapolis, IN 46202. All letters should be typewritten and may be edited for publication. Unsigned letters will not be considered, but signatures may be withheld upon request.*

Marrying is o.k. of Jew to non-Jew

Dear editor,

That was a fascinating letter by Rabbi Israel Koller (P-O, Feb. 13) reply to my letter in which I contend that my practice of providing a Jewish wedding ceremony for mixed couples that ask for a rabbi has saved many people for Judaism.

In his letter, parts of which are delightfully jocular, Rabbi Koller points out the differences which have taken place in wedding procedures over the course of years. That makes my point. My point is that new circumstances should actuate new procedures. And the new circumstance these days is the easy commingling of Jews and non-

Jews. This leads to friendship which leads to courtship which leads to marriage. So what I do is in keeping with the rhythm of Jewish development, just as many of Rabbi Koller's activities as a rabbi reflect adaptation to demographic and historic changes.

Rabbi Koller asserts that surveys have proved that the presence of a rabbi in interfaith marriages has had no effect on the Judaization of the couples involved. I strongly contest that assertion.

If Rabbi Koller will survey his own congregation I am sure that he will find that a number of Jews have remained Jewish because a rabbi responded to their request, in the case of an interfaith union, to furnish a Jewish ceremony.

Indeed, virtually every synagogue of all

denominations and most Jewish organizations contain not only in their ranks but in their leadership individuals who started life as non-Jews. At first these non-Jews decided to embrace someone Jewish; they ended up embracing Judaism.

The rebuttal to Rabbi Koller was contained in a news item which recently appeared in *The Post and Opinion*. It cites the high rise of intermarriage in England, and the article concludes thus: "No rabbis, even in the liberal wing of Judaism, would perform mixed marriages. As a result a religious vacuum was created which Christians were happy to fill."

I wonder whether Rabbi Koller would care to join me in a symposium in which he could further challenge my contentions and procedures. I'd be happy to appear at

his congregation, or before any other forum.

Rabbi Samuel M. Silver
Temple Sinai
Delray Beach, FL 33445

Elated reader wins Mystery Contest

Dear editor,

Could it be Brad Gilbert? Could this be the first time that I even came close?

I know that Brad Gilbert is on the tennis advisory committee for the Israel Tennis Center Association (to which I belong and donate and support).

I know that his sister was a top junior tennis player here in northern California, and that she later went on to win the Maccabiah (I don't know if it was 1977).

I recently saw Brad beat

Agassi in a Volvo Tennis match. Brad Gilbert also had major podiatric surgery about 2 years ago by a good friend of mine.

In any event, if I am correct, then I finally will have achieved my lifelong goal of winning the "Mystery Person" game.

I do not want a two-month extension of my subscription if I won. The P-O is the biggest bargain in town, and I want to support your wonderful people as much as I can.

If I am wrong? Well, I tried. I studied the Israel Tennis Association list of board members and directors and couldn't wait to get the second clue. The P-O arrived here on 2/25/91 (Monday) and I am sending this letter Monday night.

Dr. Stephen H. Jackson
15984 Grandview Ave.
Monte Sereno, CA 95030

NAMES IN THE NEWS

Quick recovery for Douglas

Kirk Douglas' injuries from an altercation with a helicopter did not prevent him from accepting the American Film Institute's Award for his 45 years in film, and from being honored on March 20 by the West Coast chapter of the Writers Guild of America for insisting that Dalton Trumbo be given credit for his screenplay for "Spartacus," the film in which Douglas starred. Trumbo had been blackballed in the McCarthy era.

Whom Rabbi Jakobovits affected

You don't go much higher than when at a dinner honoring Britain's chief rabbi, Lord Immanuel Jakobovits, former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in her first formal speaking engagement since she resigned, said no chief rabbi has had "so profound an effect on the life of this nation." She then revealed "one of this nation's worst-kept secrets — that he has had through his thinking and writing, a deep effect on me as well."



Rabbi Jakobovits

A Jewish lawyer

The re-sentencing of Jimmy Bakker achieved by Alan Dershowitz has won him the praise of Tammy Faye and of course her husband, but according to the *New York Times*, crowns a list of achievements that put him in the class of nation's number one lawyer. The *Times*' account related that "Mr. Dershowitz said that insofar as they were victims of the criminal justice system, Jim and Faye Bakker were 'my kind of people too.' But he took exception to a statement by Tammy Faye Bakker that the ruling was 'a great victory for Christianity.' Instead," he said, "I think the fact that a Jewish lawyer helped bring that about must show that it was a great victory for all Americans who believe in religious tolerance and secularism. When Jim, Tammy Faye and I sit down for our victory dinner — I hope at a kosher delicatessen — we will discover our world views are very different."

GUTMANN ON ART

A builder's life well told

By JOSEPH GUTMANN

Louis G. Redstone. From Israeli Pioneer to American Architect (Iowa State University Press, 1989) is the fascinating autobiography of a multi-



faceted individual. Redstone at age 87 is still active in the architectural firm he founded more than 50 years ago in Detroit. Author of five highly acclaimed resource books, including *Art in Architecture* and *Public Art — New Directions*, he has gained international recognition and was honored by the Spanish Royal Academy and the Royal Academy of Arts in The Hague, Holland. To his accomplishments as architect and author must be added that of talented watercolor artist with numerous shows to his credit.

Dedicated and responsible community leader and devoted Zionist, Redstone's story is one of indomitable determination and optimistic will in the face of loneliness,

despair, prejudice and several narrow escapes from death.

What prompted Redstone to record his truly American Horatio Alger success memoirs? Looking out from his studio window at the snow-covered garden one day, he writes, "the garden appeared as a large white screen on which my life images emerged." He was born Leon Routenstein, the fifth of seven children, in 1903 in Grodno, Russia to a middle-class Jewish family. His father, Abraham, made a living as a supplier of military uniforms and insignias. Redstone vividly describes the once-white stucco building of the Great Synagogue near the town square, the weekly bath in the round tub, and the spanking with a straight-edged ruler administered by the teacher of the *heder*.

Redstone recalls the German occupation from 1915-18 during World War I, the ensuing Russo-Polish wars thereafter, and the turmoil and hardships caused the 36,000 Jews who made up 60 percent of the population of the city. In light of the grim circumstances and the lack of opportunity for Jewish youths in Grodno, Redstone in 1920, at age 17, determined to make

aliyah to Palestine. After a harrowing journey through Poland, Italy and Egypt, a frightened and weary youth arrived in Jaffa. A welcome interlude with an aunt who had settled in Tel Aviv was both a relief and a pleasant surprise. In Palestine Redstone drained swamps, worked as a stone mason, encountered Arab riots and battled malaria and typhoid.

His brother Sol, who had emigrated to Detroit, brought him to that city in 1923. Attending night school while laboring as a construction worker during the day quickly introduced the "greenhorn" to the American way of life. It also provided funds to enable him to fulfill his childhood dream of becoming an architect. He enrolled in the School of Architecture at the University of Michigan — one of only two Jewish students in a class of 100.

Although he built life-long friendships with many of his teachers, he encountered anti-Semitism from some of his fellow students. Upon graduation in 1929 he visited his parents in Grodno. Back in Detroit he got a job with the prestigious architectural of-

Continued on next page
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Home or away?

By RITA EDLIN

Q: My parents and I are having a disagreement over my educational plans. I am a high school senior and I want to go away to school



next fall. My parents, however, want me to go to our local college. I've applied here as well as to colleges out of town. My parents want me to live at home when I start college. I can't get any real reason why, except for the extra cost of room and board. I know there are sources for financial aid and student loans. I'd be willing to pay back the loan myself, if they'd agree to let me go. How can I persuade them? — J.L., Portland

A: I'm not sure you can persuade them! They're probably just as frustrated as you are, trying to get through to you.

The key sentence in your letter is "I can't get any real reason... except for the extra cost..." You are implying that they might have other reasons to keep you at home. That is the area you need to explore with them.

Exploring an issue means listening to both sides and thinking about what is said. When people are afraid of not being heard, they often talk more than they need to and don't listen.

Ask your parents why they object to your leaving. Maybe they feel you aren't ready. Have you behaved in ways they feel are not responsible? Do they have reason to suspect you need another year at home with some supervision? If so, consider the possibility of

spending your freshman year at home. If not, consider some of the other reasons they might not want you to go.

Are you the last child at home? Would their lives be significantly different without you at home? Maybe they are reluctant to let you go for reasons they don't want to face. Parents often experience a sense of loss when children leave home. Partly they fear that you might not be mature enough to live independently. Partly they might want to forestall the future loneliness they see for themselves. When the last child leaves home, couples are faced with what is often called the "mid-life crisis." Rather than face that, many parents hold on to their children longer than necessary. Those who see this as an exciting and challenging time of life find it easier to let go.

You said you know there is financial aid or loans available. Do they know it? You sounded rather vague about that. Explore the plans of aid more thoroughly with your school counselor. Then present your parents with a specific financial plan. They will be more likely to believe it, if they see facts and figures. And, they may consider you to be more mature if you explore those resources on your own and get the facts.

Try talking to your parents again and raise some of these issues. Tell them your reasons for wanting to live on campus. Then listen to their reasons for wanting you at home. If you cannot reach a compromise and still can't "get through" to them, try making an appointment with a family counselor. Sometimes a few hours of counseling can save lots of frustrations for family members who cannot hear each other.

She's writing her memoirs

Helen Suzman, the foe of apartheid who for many years was the sole voice in parliament against the government's race legislation, is writing her memoirs. Until she retired last year, she was the longest serving legislator in South Africa's parliament.

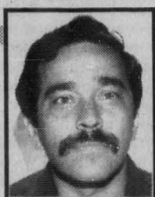


Helen Suzman

Danny Gold just won't give up

By SHEL WALLMAN

There is no quit to Danny Gold. Readers might recall that Danny was an All-Conference performer as a junior with the Niles West H.S. bas-



ketball team in Skokie, IL.

Three days before his senior season was to begin, Danny suffered severed knee ligament damage during practice. The doctors told Danny he was through for the season, but he refused to accept their verdict, worked hard at physical therapy and returned to action in January.

In his first game back, the knee gave out again, and he was then directed by his doctors to give up basketball. Can a lion do without prey? Forget about it. In February, Danny returned and, playing in pain, he worked his way into shape and in his final five starts averaged 15 ppg, 7 assists and 3 rebounds, despite being unable to push off his damaged knee to make a lay-up.

After the season, Danny underwent surgery still dreaming of basketball. A Division I collegiate prospect before misfortune fell, Danny now couldn't find any takers and enrolled, finally, at Parkland Junior College where his knee held and he netted 14 ppg with 7 assists. Now, Danny is playing for Division II U. of Missouri-Rolla, where he is again directing the offense with his slick passing and slashing drives to the hoop. There is no quit in Danny Gold.

MIKO IS BACK

Yeshiva U. freshman forward, 6:3 Miko Danan of Ramle, Israel, is the ECAC Div. III North Rookie of the Week after his return from a one-month stint with the Israeli army. In his three games since returning, Miko averaged 24.0 ppg, 10.7 boards, 7.7 assists and 5.3 steals, while shooting 66 percent from the floor and 84 percent from the foul stripe. Unfortunately, his teammate, All-American backcourt candidate Eric Davis, broke

his hand and is out for the season.

TUFTS' BEST

Juniors Larry Norman, a 6:5 (F) from Belmont, MA, and Bill Slackman, a 6:1 (G) from Somerset, NJ, have been 1-2 in scoring for Tufts U. all season, and it wasn't any different in a come-from-behind 84-75 win over UMass-Boston with Norman contributing 26 pts and 10 boards for the Jumbos and Slackman tossing in 25, mainly via outside bombs. The following week, Slackman was named to the ECAC Div. III North Honor Roll after averaging 24 ppg and 7.5 rebounds in a 2-0 week.

IN BASKETBALL

6:7 Mark Carver, of Kensington, MD, used as a sub at George Washington U. for most of the season, got a rare start and responded with 8-9 shooting while scoring 19 pts with 4 boards and 2 assists as GWU whipped St. Joseph's 73-65. In his first start of the season, off-guard Lior Arditti of Israel tossed in 11 points but Boston College still fell to Seton Hall 71-62.

Mike Hess, a 6:5 senior (F) from N. Miami Beach, FL, scored a career-high 37 pts in an 85-75 win against Union College and 17 more in a 77-70 loss to RIT to give him a career total of 1238 pts, moving him into 4th place on the Ithaca College men's basketball all-time scoring list.

What girls!

Switching from men's college hoops to girl's high school basketball, pre-season

Gutmann

Continued from prev. page
fice of Albert Kahn — a position that ended quickly with the coming of the Depression. As construction was nearly at a standstill in the United States, Redstone again went to Palestine where he opened an architectural office in Tel Aviv in 1933. There he worked on the Levant Fair, the first important international fair held in Palestine, and built some contemporary apartment buildings in Tel Aviv.

Returning to Detroit in 1936 he established his own architectural firm with his brother Sol as business manager and his sister Riva as chief accountant. From these humble beginnings the firm began to grow and prosper. His well-known firm built

All-America pick, Anita Kaplan, a 6:5 (C) at Bethlehem Central H.S. outside Albany, NY, has more than lived up to her star billing. With her school at 15-3, Anita is averaging a mere 30.8 ppg, 16.4 rebounds, 4.3 blocks and 2.9 assists, while her career point total has reached 2313 points. Throw in tough defense and intimidation in the paint and you will understand why Stanford U, a perennial women's power, is thrilled with having won the recruiting war.

Robin Fallick, a 5:4 point-guard and team captain, scored 21 points while leading Lafayette H.S. in Brooklyn, NY, to a 50-31 romp over Hamilton H.S. Robin is averaging 13 ppg and leading Lafayette in assists and foul shooting percentage. She expects to stay in NYC to play her college hoops.

Karen Adelman has become the first Framingham South (MA) H.S. girl to score 1000 career points. The senior 6:1 (C) finished with 20 points, 8 caroms and 4 blocks as South got by Norwood HS, 48-43. Karen now has 1019 career points.

Karen Ranzler, a junior at Lynbrook (LI) H.S., is a two-sport star. In hoops, the 5:9 (F/C) captain leads with 13 ppg and 14 rebounds, displaying aggressiveness and leaping ability under the basket. In volleyball, she led her club to the state finals, stars for an AAU team and will definitely play in college.

banks, libraries, shopping centers, the Jewish Community Center, the International Airport and several synagogues in Detroit.

In 1939 Redstone married Ruth Rosenbaum, his lifelong helpmate and co-author of some of his books. The Holocaust decimated most of his remaining family in Eastern Europe and only a 16-year-old nephew survived. Sen. Joseph McCarthy indicted his sister, Riva, for her liberal leanings and placed her on his black list.

In the last chapters of the book Redstone recounts his extensive travels and friendships with leading artists.

I heartily recommend this exciting and rich autobiography to all readers.